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THING!

The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

ONE PENNY. [Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

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"THE PEOPLE" OFFICE,
Saturday Evening.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

THE QUEEN AT DARMSTADT.

DARMSTADT, April 25.—Queen Victoria's dinner party yesterday included the Grand Duke and the Hereditary Grand Duke of Hesse, Princess Irene of Hesse, Princess Julie of Battenberg, Count and Countess Schoenborn, and Lady Churchill. The remainder of the royal party dined alone, after visiting the theatre.

Notwithstanding the showery weather at Darmstadt yesterday, the Queen went out twice in an open carriage in the richly wooded environs of the town. On the first occasion she was accompanied by the Hereditary Grand Duke and the Princess Alix of Hesse, and on the second by Princess Beatrice and Princess Victoria. The Empress Frederick, with her daughters, went over yesterday morning from Homburg to Darmstadt, and was conducted to the palace in a closed carriage and four. Her Majesty returned to Homburg last night, but means to go back to Darmstadt several times before her mother leaves. It is expected that the Queen will also be visited by the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden, the former coming from Strasburg with the Emperor, who reaches Darmstadt this evening about seven, in time for dinner, while the Empress, travelling from Berlin, arrives to-morrow morning. It is now expected that the Empress of Austria, who is now at Wiesbaden, will pay the Queen a private visit, so that if time and inclination agree it is possible that Darmstadt may have the honour of harbouring four empresses all at once.

The Queen, accompanied by Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg, will leave Flushing at eight o'clock on Tuesday morning next in the royal yacht Victoria and Albert upon the termination of her continental visit. The Victoria and Albert is timed to reach Sheerness Harbour with the royal travellers at four p.m., and will disembark them at Port Victoria Pier, whence they will proceed by special train to Windsor. There will be no ceremonies at Sheerness on the arrival of the Queen beyond the hoisting of flags on the vessels in the harbour.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAMS.)

DOUBLE MURDER.

BERLIN, April 25.—A double murder is reported from Schoenborn. About 200 workmen employed in constructing a high road near Schoenborn had finished their labours for the day, and were about to go to sleep in their common night shelter, when one Undank quarrelled with his bedfellow, Nadravski. Nadravski stabbed Undank, who died immediately. Thereupon the other workmen pounced upon the murderer and beat him to death.

PRINCE BISMARCK.

HAMBURG, April 25.—The *Hamburger Nachrichten* seems to have been once more favoured with a note from Friedrichsruhe. It announces to-day, on what appears to be authority, that Prince von Bismarck will not take part in the debate of the Prussian Herrenhaus before the political situation has been cleared.

A WATERSPOUT IN TEXAS.

NEW YORK, April 26.—Yesterday a waterspout burst in Texas, discharging such a quantity of water that the streams in the district rose to a great height in a few minutes, inundating the country and flooding the city of Gainsville. Great damage to property resulted. The outlook at one period was very serious, and one woman lying ill in bed died of fright.

(DALZIEL'S TELEGRAMS.)

BEAUTY SHOW AT ROME.

Rome, April 25.—The jury which is to award the prizes at the Beauty Show to be held on the 3rd of May is composed of three painters and two sculptors. From the many thousand of photographs received from Italy and abroad the judges have already selected seventeen of the best looking to come to Rome and compete for the various prizes.

SISTER ROSE GERTRUDE AND THE LEPROS.

NEW YORK, April 25.—A letter received here from the Sandwich Islands says that Sister Rose Gertrude is doubly disappointed at not being allowed to labour among the lepers at Molokai, because she belongs to a different Order of Sisters to those in charge of the hospital at that place, and because she finds matters far better there than had been represented. In fact, she says, admirable order and discipline exists at the hospital at Molokai, and the Government are probably taking better care of the lepers than is the case in any other country. The Government has spent over a million dollars in providing for their requirements.

MISS MARY ANDERSON.

NEW YORK, April 25.—Miss Mary Anderson, according to a letter received from that lady, at Louisville (Ky.), will never again appear on the stage.

THE TRIAL OF O'DONOVAN ROSSA.

NEW YORK, April 25.—During the course of the trial of O'Donovan Rossa to-day, Patrick Sarsfield Cassidy gave evidence against the editor of the *United Irishman*, and repeated the charge that Rossa only distributed 500dols. out of 1,500dols collected among the families of the Cork and Glasgow dynamitards. Cassidy also claimed that Rossa went to St. Louis, and left the key of his post-office box in the care of Tiernan, who opened the letters belonging to the Fenian Brotherhood, and gave the money enclosed in many of such letters to Rossa's wife.

A PUGILIST COMMITTED.

In the Westminster County Court application was made to Judge Bayley to commit a professional pugilist named Bond for the non-payment of his doctor's bill.—Defendant said he had been a flourishing pugilist, but five years ago he broke his hand, and had never struck a blow since.—Dr. Thorne, the plaintiff, said the defendant was a crack pugilist and had sparred before the Shah of Persia. He was generally beautifully dressed, and witness had seen him go to the police court and represent himself as a man of money and become bail for other members of the fancy. He had initiated his two sons into the art of boxing, and although they were both minors they were by their exhibitions of boxing earning £1,000 or more a year, and they lived at home with the defendant.—His honour made an order for the defendant's committal to Holloway.

FRIDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Adoption of Children Bill. Lord MEATZ moved the second reading of a bill to regulate the custody of children. He said that the sole object of the bill was to prevent parents or other guardians who had consented to the adoption of their children afterwards resuming possession of them until they had satisfied the justices in petty sessions that it was to the interest of the child.—The Lord CHANTELLO objected to the bill on principle.—Lord CRANBROOK also opposed the bill, and thought it would have been better if the noble lord had confined his measure to the custody of children.—The bill was eventually by leave withdrawn, and the bill read a second time.

SUCK DRAINAGE.

The report of a resolution providing funds for the Suck Drainage scheme was opposed by Mr. STOREY, and on a division was carried by 295 against 25.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Licensing Bill. Mr. GOSCHEN informed Mr. Leng, who asked whether the principle of "Betterment" would be applied in the case of publicans deprived of their licenses, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had only to find the necessary means; the licensing question was in the hands of the President of the Local Government Board. The Government were hastening the preparation of a measure dealing with the licensing question.—Sir W. LAWSON asked whether any idea could be given when the Government Bill would be ready.—Mr. GOSCHEN said possibly in the next three or four days.

POST OFFICE SERVANTS.

Mr. RAIKES, replying to Mr. A. WILLIAMS, said it was a fact that post office servants were held responsible for any infringement of the rules concerning the holding of outside meetings which had lately issued. There was at least one precedent for the rules in the regulations which had existed for nearly a quarter of a century, and which were absolutely prohibitory. His object had been to make the rules less stringent.

—Mr. WILLIAMS gave notice that at the earliest opportunity he would ask the House to confirm the undoubted right of all those in the civil employment of the State to meet and discuss questions affecting their position, free from official intimidation or interference.

INDIAN ECONOMIES.

Sir J. GOOT, replying to Mr. BRADLAUGH, said the recommendations of the Indian Finance Committee, which had been accepted, would result in a more economical arrangement with the Provincial governments and a considerable saving.

INCOME TAX.

Mr. CALDWELL asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he would propose an alteration of the law whereby all limited liability, joint stock, civil service, and co-operative societies would be treated as units for purposes of taxation without regard to individual members.—Mr. GOSCHEN: No; I should not be prepared to propose an alteration of the law which would practically bring persons with a less income than £150 a year to pay income-tax. That would be the result of the suggestion, and it is not a proposal that I should be prepared to enforce. As a matter of fact, public companies cannot be treated as units, for shareholders having an income under £150 are entitled to a rebate.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

ST. PANCRAS (NORTH).—Mr. EDWARD R. P. MOON, nephew of Sir Richard Moon, was on Friday night adopted by the Conservative council as the candidate to oppose Mr. BOLTON (G.) at the next election. Mr. Moon has accepted the invitation.

THE TEA DUTY.

In reply to Mr. BRYCE, Mr. GOSCHEN stated that the new tea duty would be introduced on May 1st.

Electoral Disabilities Bill.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill, Sir J. GOOT explained, in answer to Mr. M. HEALY, that it was intended solely to give the soldiers, sailors, and policemen the same franchise as was enjoyed by the civil community of the country. The classes he had mentioned were obliged to absent themselves from their homes, and consequently often lost that power to vote which Parliament intended they should possess.—Mr. STOKE could not see why the bill should have been introduced without including all sections of the community. The bill only referred to those sailors who were employed in royal vessels. There were thousands of men engaged in commerce with foreign nations who lost their votes in a precisely similar manner. He urged that the bill should touch all interests, and therefore moved that it be read that day six months.—Mr. WHITMORE was sorry the Government had not introduced a bill that would remove the disabilities of all sailors, railway clerks, and others who were now unable to vote; but he could not support the opposition to the bill. He rejoiced that the bill removed the disability of certain classes, and he intended to move an amendment in committee to extend it to all classes.—Mr. HOWELL supported the rejection of the bill, which was intended by the Government to increase the voting power of the naval and military forces of the country, while withholding it from a large mass of citizens deserving to be enfranchised.—Colonel HUGHES supported the bill.—Mr. E. ROBERTSON asked whether the Government would accept an instruction extending the bill to all classes; if the Government did not agree to do so, he must vote against the bill.—Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN agreed with the remarks of the last speaker as solving the difficulty. He hoped the Government would agree to the suggestion made.—Mr. SEXTON alleged that the bill was a political measure of the most unfair description, and urged its withdrawal in order that a more comprehensive one might be introduced.—Sir J. GOOT said he did not recommend the bill on political grounds. He was surprised to hear an Irish member say that a member should not introduce a bill to remove grievances affecting his own constituents. He represented a constituency of men who suffered from the disability, and, therefore, was the proper person to represent to the House the anomaly. The bill included all persons in the auxiliary forces, and the Government would certainly give support to any instructions which would have the effect of excluding the exemption to those classes which were included in Mr. WHITMORE's bill.—Mr. BRADLAUGH said that under these circumstances he should support the bill.—Sir H. JAMES thought the principle of exemption in the case of involuntary absence might also be extended to voluntary absence. He could not say at present how the voluntary absence ought to be defined.—Sir J. GOOT said the principle of Mr. WHITMORE's bill was that persons should not be deprived of their votes because they were absent in pursuance of a contract, and that proposal the Government adhered to.—Mr. LAWSON asked if the concession would extend to working men away from home.—Sir J. W. PEASE pointed out that the bill affected residence, not voting.—Mr. M. HEALY contended that the concession of the Government was not adequate.

MR. ILLINGWORTH contended that no technical disqualification should be left.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL maintained that the Government had endeavoured to meet the desire of a large number of members on the Opposition side, and that there was now no reason for quarrelling over the bill.—Mr. CAUSTON supported the extension of the bill to all classes by removing all disqualifications on the ground of residence.—Mr. J. ROWLANDS said the bill would merely open the door to greater concessions, ending in the removal of all disqualifications.—Mr. C. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUMMER, Mr. GROTRIAN, Mr. H. WILSON, Mr. T. H. BOTTON, and other members continued the discussion, after which the amendment was withdrawn, and the bill read a second time.

SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee of Supply; and on a vote of £17,640 for the suppression of the slave trade, Mr. LABOUCHERE resumed the adjourned discussion on it, and stated that £16,000 of the vote was for a mail contract that was not necessary for the suppression of the slave trade. He moved to reduce the vote by £9,130, the increase in the mail contract.—Mr. JACKSON said there was no change this year in the form of the estimate. It was a question whether it should be put under the packet service; but the fact was that the service was entered into, carried on, and paid for, much more in the interest of the control and suppression of the slave trade than for the mail service. There was no connection between that mail service and the East African Company.—After further discussion, Sir JAMES FERGUSON defended the vote.—On a division the motion to reduce the vote was rejected by 213 against 145, and the vote was ultimately agreed to.—The sitting was suspended at five minutes to seven.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The House resumed at 9 o'clock, and on the motion to go into Committee of Supply, Mr. PICTON complained that the Education Department refused to sanction the employment of girls at Leicester as pupil teachers, because they had not been vaccinated.—Colonel NOLAN asked the intention of the Government as to establishing large fishery harbours on the Irish coast.—Sir THOMAS EDMOND asked the policy of the Government with regard to Samoa.—Dr. FITZGERALD complained of the disbanding of cattle in Ireland.—Mr. WADDY asked whether a religious census was to be taken next year.—Mr. W. H. SMITH said that question was one for the House itself to decide when the census bill came before it.—After some discussion on land tenure in the North of Scotland, Mr. W. H. SMITH moved the closure, which was carried by 115 against 60.—The House went into Committee of Supply, and discussed a vote of £128,320, for sundry colonial services, after which the House adjourned.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

ST. PANCRAS (NORTH).—Mr. EDWARD R. P. MOON, nephew of Sir Richard Moon, was on Friday night adopted by the Conservative council as the candidate to oppose Mr. BOLTON (G.) at the next election. Mr. Moon has accepted the invitation.

SUCCI'S FAST.

Giovanni Succi, who finished his forty days' fast at the Royal Aquarium on Saturday afternoon, is 36 years of age, and an Italian by birth.

Prior to this fast he has fasted thirty-two times, the periods varying from twenty to thirty days. He concluded his last fast of thirty days at Brussels on January 18th, and at the outset of his present performance he appears to have had no misgivings as to power of bearing the former record by ten days.

His last meal, which he ate on the afternoon of March 17th, consisted of salmon, curried mutton and rice, roast beef, bread, cheese, coffee and brandy, and on being weighed he registered 9st. 10lb.

Since that time he has lived in his specially constructed quarters in the Aquarium, and has never been left, six gentlemen—three medical men, two press men, and one layman—watching him night and day. During the first forty-eight hours he complained of the severe pangs of hunger, but after a few days he suffered no inconvenience in this respect. Although he has lost weight and wan, his energy and strength of which have been boundless, and throughout the whole period his muscular power has decreased only slightly. Of course he has been the victim of many practical jokes, especially during the latter part of his fast. Toothpicks, steaks, bread, and even miniature coffins have reached him from various quarters, and no one has been more amused at the receipt of these articles than himself.

GREAT RAILWAY STRIKE IN IRELAND.

A great strike of railway porters, guards,

and others, has taken place at the Dublin terminus of the Great Southern and Western Railway, completely upsetting the train service, their example being followed by the men all along the line. A meeting of the directors was held on Friday, at which alterations in the service were considered, and a new time table will be issued. There does not at present appear to be any probability of an understanding being arrived at between the men and the company. No sympathy whatever is felt towards the strikers, and their action is condemned for all hands as most vexatious and unwarrantable. The men have held several meetings, at which the leaders of the movement delivered speeches exhorting them to stand firm and remain quiet. The strike will result in all Transatlantic mails being despatched during the next week via Liverpool instead of Queenstown. The Cunard Company has, it is said, offered to delay the despatch of the mail steamer *Umbria* for New York until early on Sunday morning, instead of her leaving on Saturday afternoon, so that all mails may be taken on at Liverpool for New York. This will involve little or no loss of time, for Queenstown will be passed twelve hours after the *Umbria's* departure.

DEATH OF A MILLIONAIRE.

Mr. EDWARD BOLITHO, of Trewooden, near Penzance, the father of Mr. T. B. Bolitho, M.P., died on Thursday at the age of 85. Mr. Bolitho, it is understood, was a millionaire. As late as Saturday, though just recovered from a brief illness, he was out of doors.

THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

The Press Association states that the Marriage

with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, which is the

same Order for Wednesday next, is the same

measure with two slight alterations, which was

before the House last Session. The bill will be

introduced by Mr. H. Gardiner.

penal servitude.

A GROSS OFFENCE.

At the Central Criminal Court on Friday, before

Mr. Justice HAWKINS, Alfred BANN, 22, was

charged with criminally assaulting a girl named

Taylor. The evidence was to the effect that the

prisoner and his wife resided in the King's-road, West Ham, where they had a room in a factory, and that on one occasion as the girl

was walking out, she was accosted by the prisoner,

who persisted in following her until they arrived

at a quiet spot, where he effected his purpose.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and Mr.

Justice HAWKINS sentenced him to seven years'

penal servitude.

MR. STANLEY'S RETURN TO LONDON.

Mr. STANLEY was accompanied on his return to London on Saturday by Dr. PARKER, Captain NELSON, Mr. JEPHSON, Lieutenant STAIRS, Mr. WILSON, and Mr. BONNY. Among the party who travelled to Dover for the purpose of meeting Mr. STANLEY on landing at Dover were Lord WOLSEY, General BRACKENBURY, Mr. J. S. FORBES, Mr. AKERS-Douglas, M.P., Sir Lewis PELLY, M.P., Mr. GEORGE WYNDHAM, M.P., Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS, M.P., Sir Francis de Winton, Lord KINNAIRD, Mr. WILLIAMS FORBES, Colonel NEW (Consul-general United States), Sir James ANDERSON, Baron PASHA (Turkish Ambassador), Baron H. de WORMS, M.P., Sir JOHN PENDER, Sir DONALD STEWART, Sir CLEMENT HILL (representing the Foreign Office), Sir GRANT DUFT, and Sir ARNOLD KEMBALL. Mr. STANLEY desires quiet and rest for some time in order that he may complete his book, and his engagements for the next few days are of a more or less private nature.

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ROMANCE IN THE HUSK.
BY JAMES GREENWOOD.THREE-FINGERED MUDGE.
CHAPTER II.MR. PIKRUST OBTAINS CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE
AND MAKES THE MOST OF IT.

"My strange customer didn't come the next night," said Mr. Pikrust, continuing to dictate his story. "I was to the police station clerk at his desk. 'I was all ready for him, but he did not put in an appearance. Young Bob was under the counter all the time, but that didn't cause the warming much inconvenience, because, having stuffed himself with everything eatable he could lay his hands on while I wasn't looking at him, he went to sleep."

"My gentleman didn't come the night after, but the third night he did. He hadn't improved in appearance since I last saw him. He had a haggard and hunted look, and was as famished as though he hadn't touched food since he last put away half a dozen thick slices at my counter."

"He had his gloves on, and I hoped he would be as friendly as he was before and want to shake hands—I wanted to be quite certain about the missing finger! But although he was civil, almost grinning in his behaviour, he would not do as I wished him to."

"It was a pouring wet night, and customers were scarce. Plenty of the wrong sort—naturally there would be in such beastly bad weather—the unfortunate sort, I mean—drangletail poor wretches, wet through, and with their teeth chattering, and with nothing but a 'God-a-mighty blues you!' for letting 'em come in and have a bit of a warm at the fire."

"There were two of them at the fire when my gentleman at last came in; but my rule with 'em is that they must turn out sharp when a customer arrives. But one of the two had been drinking, I think, and when her friend nudged her to come away she was inclined to be nasty."

"A nice-looking chap he was to turn out for," she said. "I told her that I wouldn't have such as her insult a gentleman I was serving, and then she broke out:

"A gentleman! More like the ghost of one. More like a chap who had committed suicide for his sins, and not being able to rest in his grave, had come out to stretch his legs and get a cup of coffee to warm him!" And then, with a drunken laugh, she went off.

"He didn't say a word while they were there, but stood with his face to the fire and his back to them. When they were gone he turned to the counter and made believe to be laughing. He'd had a precious sight more pleasant to look at if he had been crying."

"That's a nice thing for a man who has been ill to be told!" says he. "I suppose, though, I do look bad."

"Not so bad as all that," says I. "Not like a person who was likely to commit suicide for his sins!"

"'No!' he answered, turning round to warm his hands at the fire again. 'A man don't usually commit suicide for his sins, I reckon. Life is still precious—or so I should think—with the very worst of us!'

"I had my eye on him, and he gave a start as though a pin had pricked him."

"What then?" he remarked.

"Why, then, his conscience might prove too much for him; like that chap who killed and robbed the old gentleman by the bridge!"

"But though I was sly on the look out for it, I didn't give another start. He straightened himself up and faced round, and looked at me quite calm and collected."

"'Ha! About that man!' and he took a bite out of a slice of bread and butter and chewed it as unconcerned as possible. 'They never caught him, did they?'

"They haven't up to the present time, but they will I hope."

"Why, of course you hope so. So do I. Still, it's a longish time since it happened."

"More than a month," says I.

"Why, what are you talking about?" says he, quite angry that I should have made such a foolish mistake; "it is much more than a month ago. More than five weeks. It was five weeks ago last Saturday night that affair."

"I shouldn't have thought it was so long since as that, but time flies."

"That's as ording," he remarked with a sort of a sigh and as though speaking to himself rather than to me. "Yes, it's five weeks ago, and if a man escapes for so long as that, why may he not keep his liberty for five months—five years—as long as he lives, if it comes to that? The longer he remains undetected the better chance he has got of getting off altogether; at least, I should think so. I don't trouble my head much about such matters, but it seems to me to stand to reason."

"If it comes to that," says I, just to keep him in that groove of conversation, "I don't believe there is much truth in the old proverb, 'Murder will out.' I could mention three or four that were never found out at all."

"I thought he was going to shake hands with me then, he brightened up and looked so pleased."

"Three or four, you say! Why, I could name a dozen. No, no. The fact is, if a man is not taken at once, or in a reasonable time—say a fortnight or three weeks at the outside—people begin to forget about it. Why, even you yourself must have done so, or how could you have made that mistake as to its being only a month since when it is more than five weeks? They get off as often as not, in my opinion. It is a dreadful thing that it should be so, but it is a fact nevertheless."

"He talked in such a free-and-easy way about it, eating and drinking all the time, that I began to think my suspicions of him must have been unfounded. But I couldn't forget his awful funk when the detective came in, or the face that he made believe was a laughing one, or the start he gave when I first mentioned the word 'Murder.' But, after all, I had nothing to act on as yet—not much, I mean, that would warrant me in making a move."

"The move you should have made," remarked the inspector, "was to have communicated with the police."

"Well, a man can't think of everything," returned Mr. Pikrust, demurely; "perhaps if it hadn't been for the two hundred pounds reward I might have communicated with 'em. However, let me be took down in writing and I'll tell you the rest of it. It was still pouring with rain, and seeing that my gentleman had finished his coffee and bread and butter, and that he was buttoning his coat and was preparing to go, I returned to him:

"You will have a wet walk home, sir. I hope you haven't a long way to go."

"Not more than a couple of miles," says he.

"I live at Bermondsey."

"That was a lie, at all events! On the night when I found out about his missing finger I stood at the door and watched him as he was hurrying away, and he did not turn to the left, which was Bermondsey way, but sharp to the right."

"Young Bob was under the counter, and I gave him a gentle h'ist with the toe of my boot. He understood d., and before my gentleman was fifty yards down the road Bob was on the other side of the way keeping him in sight."

"He was more than an hour gone, and then he came back, bringing me rum news."

"Just as I suspected; it wasn't at Bermondsey at all that my gentleman lived, but near the waterside, in Princes-street, Lambeth. At the waterside, in fact; not in a house, but at a sort of wharf place that wasn't occupied. That young Bob knew, because there was a board up, saying that the place was to let. He didn't open the whitewashed door in the large gates and go in that way."

but crept along under the wall until he got to a low part, and then climbed over.

"What did I make of that?

"Not that he meant committing suicide by drowning himself. He wouldn't have gone such a roundabout way to get at the river if that had been his game. He would have made for Waterloo Bridge when he left my cabin, and paid his ha'penny, and settled the business quiet and comfortable."

"No; what I made of the information young Bob brought me was this. He was hiding at the old wharf, and had been doing so ever since the time of the murder!

"He was afraid to take a lodging anywhere; afraid to be seen by daylight even!

"He was one of those miserable sort of cowards—he'd shown it when he sat shivering and shaking behind his newspaper—that he could think no other but that 'Murderer' was written on his face plain, to be read by anybody that looked at him."

"That was the reason the poor wretch was half-famished! He didn't have plumb enough to try and get rid of any of the plunder the murderer brought him—the gold watch, the diamond rings, and the foreign money. He preferred to pawn the boots of his feet and the shirt off his back—ain't there the pawn tickets to prove it?—and he daren't even spend the little money he raised in that way at shops and in the daytime, but he stopped at the hole he was hiding in till dead o' night, and then he crept out and came to feed at my coffee-stall."

"That was how it was," continued Mr. Pikrust; "leastways, that was how I reckoned it up. But, after all, it wasn't enough for me to act on—to call a policeman before the next time he came to my cabin and say, 'I give this man in custody on a charge of murder.'

"One who would like to know,—You had better employ solicitor; the man the deceased executors ought to know what he's accuse of the money."

"In TROUBLE.—Any creditors of the deceased, whether public or private, must be first settled with out of the proceeds."

"SUSAN.—Quite impossible to suggest how you should proceed otherwise than by prosecuting inquiry to the best of your ability.

"LOUISA.—Is the marriage took place prior to 1883, your property at the time became vested in your husband."

"A. J.—His nationality would remain as before, but he would owe allegiance to his adopted country."

"PRIDE OF KILDARE.—We fear you have no legal remedy.

"It was a fatal omission not to have incurred a clause in the contract of sale to prevent the executors from doing so."

"C. H.—The State of Limitations bars the claim."

"J. A. M.—It is purely a matter of one person's word against another's."

"RAMDOLPH.—Yes."

"F. C.—We cannot say what view the court would take, but should not recommend you to run the risk of having to pay costs."

"TOMASZOW OVNA.—You are entitled to all arrears, and claim them at any time."

"LOVER OF JUSTICE.—We cannot offer any opinion, having no knowledge of the rules of the society."

"A. B.—If the marriage took place before 1883 the goods belong to the husband, and can be seized by his creditors. No legal action now would alter this."

"C. H.—Yes."

"D.—Being insufficiently stamped for a promissory note it would not be accepted as evidence."

"D. A. C.—The property must be sold."

"E. OLD SAILOR.—The authorised charge is 3s. for levying distress and 2s. 6d. a day for the man in possession. We cannot possibly say, not knowing how much is due for accumulated interest."

"T. S.—LAWSON.—It would entirely depend upon the nature of the certificate."

"A. K.—READ.—You can sue him, of course, and if the 1000 is in proper form you ought to win the case."

"BROWNING.—No legal advice appears to have been communicated to us."

"A. WIDOW.—You must remain on until your tenancy expires."

"T. G.—You can't do this to the new owner on his giving proof of having purchased the house."

"W. W.—Of course he can, the principal being in default."

"J. S. P.—Yes."

"JIM.—Sue him."

"C. BISSET.—Hold on to the machine; you have the first claim on it for your rent."

"A. S. D.—YOU MUST TURN OUT WHEN THE NOTICE EXPIRES; I THEN HAVE TO HOLD IT FOR YOU."

"C. G. LOWE.—1. No. 2. You are bound by the conditions of the employment."

"SEAN.—He is entitled to a week's notice, unless guilty of misconduct or disobedience."

"CLARE MARKET.—Your case is governed by the conditions made with the insurance company."

"LITTLE BOPEEP.—Who would proceed against him for desertion, but unless the master had to enter the workhouse that authorities would not take any action."

"TOM.—YES."

"W. B. S.—It depends entirely on the terms of engagement."

"A. S.—CONTRACT.—WE CAN NOT TELL YOU WHAT THE NOTICE EXPIRES."

"E. H. C.—NOT TO GIVE UP THE PROPERTY, EXCEPT TO THE PRODUCER OF THE TICKET."

"G.—GODFREY.—ON HAD BETTER BRING THE CASE BEFORE THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE DIVISION."

"POOT TAN.—NO."

"ANXIOUS WIFE.—HE MUST PAY THE DEFICIENCY OR STAND ASSESSED."

"ONE IN DOUBT.—THE DECEASED BROTHER'S CHILDREN, IF LEGITIMATE, ARE ENTITLED TO HIS SHARE, BUT IF ILLEGITIMATE THEY GET NOTHING."

"I.—HE IS LEGALLY ENTITLED TO KEEP THE GIRL."

"A. CONSTANT READER.—IF ANY ONE IS LIABLE, IT IS THE MAN WHO SHOULD RECOMMEND YOU TO ACCEPT THE MASTER'S OFFER."

"C. M. CARTER.—1. YOU CAN SUIT THE OWNER OF THE DOG FOR ANY DAMAGE CAUSED BY ITS TRESPASSING. 2. NO REDRESS; IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED A TRUMPY AND VEXATIOUS COMPLAINT."

"MILES END.—YES."

"CHARLES.—YOU HAVE NO REMEDY; YOU CHOOSE YOUR OWN METHOD OF CONVEYANCE, AND IT IS NOT FAULT OF THE SELLER THAT THE GOODS WERE LOST."

"H. J. HORWOOD.—A LEGACY IS BARRED AT THE END OF TWENTY YEARS, NOT SIX, UNLESS FRAUD CAN BE PROVED ON THE PART OF THE EXECUTOR, IN WHICH CASE TIME DOES NOT RUN."

"FORESTER.—AS WE UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION YOU APPEAR TO HAVE NO CLAIM, BUT YOU SHOULD CONSULT THE SOLICITOR WHO PROVIDED THE TRANSFER; WE CANNOT ADVISE ON DOCUMENTS WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF."

"E. H. E.—THE OWNER OF THE MOVING VAN, IF THE OTHER ONE WAS ON ITS OWN SIDE OF THE ROAD."

"DESERVED.—NO" TO BOTH QUESTIONS.

"SUNDAY.—THE COST WOULD BE 2s. 6d., NOT INCLUDING THE CHURCH FEES, WHICH VARY. IT WOULD ONLY HAVE OPERATION WITHIN THE DISTRICT. NOTICE MUST BE GIVEN TO THE CLERGYMAN. WE DO NOT REPLY BY POST UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHETHER."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"THOSE EVERY CARE WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION RECEIVED. QUOTATIONS REQUIRING TO BE ANSWERED SHOULD REACH THE OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY MORNING OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK. RELATED MATTERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO A STAMPED ENVELOPE, WHICH WILL BE DESTROYED. WHEREVER POSSIBLE, THE QUOTATION SHOULD BE STATED IN FULL. QUOTATIONS FOR SPECIFICATES OR LEFT IN THE LETTER TO THE EDITOR, OR IN THE FORM OF A TELEGRAM, SHOULD BE KEPT AS CONFIDENTIAL AS POSSIBLE."

LEGAL.

"CONSTANT READER.—THE FIRST STEP IS TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF A SOLICITOR. YOU COULD NEVER CARRY THROUGH THE BUSINESS WITHOUT LEGAL ASSISTANCE."

"T. B.—YOU CAN TAKE ANY NAME, BUT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO GIVE IT AS YOUR OWN NAME."

"FIVE-YEAR'S SCACCIARIA.—IF YOUR TOTAL INCOME FROM ALL SOURCES IS LESS THAN £150 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO EXEMPTION FROM INCOME-TAX, BUT NOT FROM THE LAND TAX AND INHABITED HOUSE DUTY ON THE PREMISES."

"MAIDSTONE READER.—YOU HAD BETTER GET IT DONE BY A SOLICITOR."

"M. A. H.—A PARASITIC USE OF POWDERED HORNS, AS MUCH AS A POUND STRUNG OVER A ROOM, HAS BEEN FOUND IN THE ROOF OF THE HOUSE, WHICH HAS BEEN FORMED BY ERECTION WHERE THE CONCRETE WAS."

"MUDGY COMPLEXION.—WE DO NOT KNOW THE ACID YOU ALLOUTE."

"R. B. D.—WOULD RECOMMEND YOU TO PUT ON A CORN SHIELD; THIS WOULD PROTECT THE FOOT FROM PRICKING, AND UPON THE SURFACE OF THE CORN, LEFT HARE IN THE HOLLOW OF THE SHIELD, WITH STICK AND A MATCH."

"HOME HORSE.—THERE IS NO HORSE IN EITHER."

"WEST HAM.—IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY. SEVERAL AMERICAN MILLIONAIRES ARE REPORTED TO BE VERY MUCH RICHER THAN THE DUKE OF WEST HAMPSHIRE."

"PUBLICATION.—NO."

"BULL'S EYE.—WE CANNOT SAY; THE INLAND REVENUE PEOPLE WILL TELL YOU."

"ANGUOUS ONE.—BEACH TWICE CONTESTED THE SCALING CHAMPIONSHIP ON THE THAMES. ON 18TH SEPTEMBER HE BEAT GANDAM AND A WEEK AFTERWARDS HE DEFEATED WALLACE ROSS."

"T. G.—YOU ARE BELOW THE STANDARD, AND WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED."

"DARLAW.—YOU HAD FAR BETTER KEEP HER AT SCHOOL UNTIL SHE HAS PASSED THE SIXTH STANDARD; YOU WILL THEN BE ABLE TO TAKE HER AWAY altogether."

would be of little use, as he has probably gone into the interior, where newspapers are unknown. Your best course would be to employ a messenger at Sydenham to make inquiry.

[ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.]

MARGARET BYNG.

By F. C. PHILIPS

(AUTHOR OF "AS LOOKING-GLASS")

PERCY FENDALL.

CHAPTER III.

LET US SEPARATE.

The greeting between husband and wife was not an affectionate one. Margaret had long ceased to love her husband, and he inwardly cursed his wife for her extravagance and with being the cause of his ruin. Still, they were on fairly good terms with each other and rarely came to an open quarrel.

She rose to greet him, and said:

"I am thankful you have arrived; it is quite early."

"It is not early," he said. "It is ten o'clock."

"It is really," she answered. "You must excuse my not knowing the time, for there is not a watch or clock in the house."

"Where's your watch?"

She smiled.

"My watch has gone to join the clock. It felt dull by itself."

"You have pawned it?"

"I have. I pawned it yesterday after vainly endeavouring to get credit for my dinner."

"Do you mean to say that all the tradespeople have struck?"

"Every man Jack of them."

"Why, I saw two of them calling this morning."

"Yes, they continue to call, but it is not for orders. It is to have their bills settled."

"The brutes!" said Mr. Byng.

"They are brutes," she acquiesced. "They have never ceased worrying me since you left this morning. When were you coming back? Where had you gone to? Did I think you would bring back any money?" &c., &c."

"And what did you say?"

"I said that you had gone to see your relations, but that I very much doubted your bringing back any money. I told them that your family were not given to assisting paupers, and that was what we had become."

"And were they annoyed?"

"Naturally. They said it was very hard that honest people should have to suffer because they could not get their just demands paid."

"What did you say to that?"

"I told them that we had made unfortunate speculations, and that I considered they charged sufficiently high prices to give long credit."

"And then?"

"Well, notwithstanding my powerful reasoning the butcher refused to part with a pound of rump-steak, and the grocer was equally obdurate about some tea and sugar."

"And so you pawned your watch?"

"Yes. It was the only thing to be done."

"And what about this man in possession?"

"Well, he's in possession still. I need not tell you that there has been no shower of gold down the chimney with which to pay him out. As you know, she is the sole remnant of our establishment who has cared to stay. As there is nothing for her to cook, I suppose she likes the place, and I dare say she thoroughly appreciates the anecdotes of the old man. I have heard him talking to her ever since he made his appearance."

"Then you really mean it?"

"Of course I do. I will go upstairs and pack up my things, and when I come down you must give me the money and I shall be ready to leave."

Mrs. Byng had gained her point, and left the room with a feeling of absolute triumph. Her worries would cease when once away from her husband, and she would enjoy her freedom and make the most of it. She was so weary of her present life, weary of the ceaseless efforts to keep up appearances on a pitiful income, and weary of her husband's ill-temper and constant reproaches. She had no respect for him, and very little for the marriage tie. She had a Bohemian nature, and longed to live a more adventurous life. Her early education in life with her father had eradicated any principles she might originally have possessed, and she could only think of the joy of being free, of being the absolute mistress of her actions. She had been meditating this separation for some weeks, and was now very glad of the opportunity to carry it out. She determined to go straight to Monte Carlo with her hundred pounds, and leave the rest to fate. She packed up the few dresses she had which were worth taking away, and then she came down and told her husband she was ready to start. Mr. Byng advised her to put off her departure until the morrow, but she was in a feverish state of excitement, and declared that she should sleep at the hotel that night, and start for the continent the next morning.

"Are you going to Paris?" he asked.

"I don't know where I am going," she answered untruthfully. "But I am not going to remain in England. There is no money to be made in this country except by old City fogies—and I mean to stay in force."

"Not a penny. The fact is he cannot; he really has not got it."

"Then what are we to do?"

"Work, I suppose."

"What nonsense! How can we work? You have no appointment, and you scarcely expect me to go out as a daily governess, do you?"

"I expect nothing from you except damned extravagance," said her husband crossly. "I thought you would have been pleased at my getting the money and being able to turn the man out."

"What is the good of this house if we have no servants, and nothing to eat?" she said. "The old man might just as well stay."

"But we shall be sold up."

"We shall be sold up in any case when the bill of sale man hears about this. He came this morning about the interest, and I told him we would send to him to-morrow, and he gave me distinctly to understand that if the overdue instalments were not paid he should put the bill of sale in force."

"I had forgotten that."

"You seem to have forgotten a great many things. Oh, why, why did I ever marry you?"

"No one regrets the marriage more than I do. You have been perfect curse to me."

"Thanks. You seem to forget that when I married you I had a home; now, there is every probability of my being thrown on the streets."

"You can go back to your father."

"I cannot go back to him; he will not speak to me, as you know. I tell you there is nothing for us but the workhouse."

"Why the devil did you run up such bills?"

"I might ask you the same question. Who had the money that was raised on the furniture?"

"What is the good of arguing?"

"None. We shall only lose our tempers and do nothing to improve the situation."

"And you can think of no one from whom we can borrow a little money?"

She laughed outright. "Borrow!" she said. "I am afraid our security is not tempting enough."

"I wish you would not laugh."

"I cannot help it. Your idea of borrowing is so funny."

"I am sick of the whole thing," he said. "Tell the cook to bring me up some supper."

"Supper, my dear Hubert, are you out of your mind?"

"Do you mean to say there is none?"

"There are no coals."

"Why, then, didn't you get some?"

"I really forgot all about it. Still you must take me for a millionaire because I have pawned my watch. They only lent me thirty-five shillings on it, and I had to give ten to the cook to prevent her leaving. I feared being compromised if I remained alone in the house with that man downstairs, and I did not fancy having to open the door to chance visitors."

"You're a fool!" he said impatiently.

"I am quite aware of that," said Mrs. Byng.

"The epithet is not a complimentary one, but it is particularly appropriate. I was a fool when I ran away with a younger son and imagined that I should lead a life of happiness on love and two hundred a year. The love is dead, and the two hundred a year is so hopelessly encumbered that it can be said to be buried with our affection."

"Yes, I was a fool when I thought that because there are sharp men who make a living on the turf you might be one of them, and I have always been a fool to think that a hand-to-mouth life like we have led could last for ever. Mine has been a miserable degrading life from the very first. I have been insulted by your friends, who have taken advantage of our poverty to pester me with their attentions, and if I have remained an honest woman it has certainly not been your fault. And now I am called a fool for my pains!"

Hubert gave the instructions, and the four-wheeler started off slowly, and was watched by him until out of sight.

"Good-bye," said Hubert, as he held her hand across the cab window. "Where shall I tell him to drive to?"

"I will tell him myself," she said. "No, on second thoughts you can tell him to drive to the Charing Cross Hotel. Good-bye."

Hubert gave the instructions, and the four-wheeler started off slowly, and was watched by him until out of sight.

"Was there ever such a strange separation?"

He thought, as he descended the house, and

and as if she was putting forward some very commonplace plan.

"Separate!" ejaculated her husband. "What do you mean?"

"Exactly what I say. You have told me that I am a fool, a curse, and have showered upon me various other complimentary names. I have not said as much to you, but my opinion of you is precisely the same. Perhaps apart we should have better luck and be able to begin life afresh. Now, my suggestion is this:—Keep the two hundred pounds your father has given you. Let us share it, share it equally, and each go our own way. You may very likely get on better without me, and I shall always be able to manage for myself. What is the good of paying Eugenie? As soon as one debt is paid, hundreds more will crop up. Let us cut the Gordian knot and do a bolt! But not together. You are tired of me; I have no confidence in you. We shall be happier apart, and something tells me that we shall both retrieve our fortunes."

"I speak very calmly of leaving me."

"Because I think it is for the best. Let us make a solemn compact not to molest each other for one whole year, and, if at the end of that time we long for each other's society, we can join forces again. Do you agree?"

Hubert hesitated. He had often longed for freedom, often cursed the hour in which he had married, and he had but little love for his wife; but her suggestion, nevertheless, annoyed him. He could scarcely believe his own senses when she spoke so coolly and unmotionally of the separation. They had certainly not been happy together during the last few years, but still he did not altogether fancy the idea of his beautiful young wife drifting out into the world with no settled home or income.

She had prepared a neat little excuse in case she should meet any of her friends. The doctors had ordered her abroad suddenly, just as her husband had been given a Government appointment, and thus it was she had been obliged to come alone. The separation was very painful—very painful indeed, but weak lungs must not be played with, and her medical man would brook no opposition to his advice. Then, too, her husband must do his duty, and earn their daily bread. She decided that she could make this little story very plausible and pathetic, and in this frame of mind she started for Monaco with every feeling of confidence. As it happened, she met no friends on the first day of her visit to the little Principality, and, after playing with varying luck for nearly the whole afternoon, she returned to Nice a few pounds poorer than when she had left. At that time of year there were not many people at Monte Carlo. The Nice races had not yet commenced, and the crush which comes with that event was still some weeks off.

Of course the rooms were full of the old habits, and she recognised many haggard, play-worn faces, which she had known well from the days of her girlhood.

The play was not very high, the plunger who came in January not having yet put in an appearance. Truth to tell, Mrs. Byng felt it very dull when once the novelty and excitement of her position had worn off. She was not a bold player and never possessed the courage to leave her money down for a run. She played nervously, and in a most uncertain fashion, as is the habit with women, and there was rarely any result after two or three hours' play. Mrs. Byng thoroughly realised the fact that she was not a good player, but still she had not the courage to alter her stakes and play a bold game. It did not take her long to decide that she would never make her fortune at gambling, and then she began to wonder how she could ever make her fortune.

She knew perfectly well that there were plenty of people at Monte Carlo who existed without means of any sort—people who were content to borrow a louis a day from some lucky gambler and never return it. But that was not the sort of existence to suit her. She would like to make a big "coup" somehow or other, but she was unable to make up her mind how this was to be done. After a time, when she had experienced a series of reverses at roulette and her funds were getting low, she left off playing and contented herself with watching the players. There was a new arrival who was playing very high, and it interested her immensely to watch him. He was a very young man, this new arrival, and played with a wonderful amount of courage. Margaret stood near him and saw him rake in piles of silver and gold, and a feeling of envy and despair seized her.

What would she not have given to have been able to play such high stakes, but she felt that her capital was too ridiculously small, and that it would be folly to attempt anything of the kind.

A lady, young and good-looking, occasionally came and spoke to the lucky player, but the lady in question was playing at roulette and only came to the trente et quartier table when she wanted money. The gentleman was devoting all his talents to trente et quartier, and frequently reached the maximum—12,000 francs—and won it. He was not following any system, and was evidently a novice at the game, for he took no interest in the cards as they were dealt out, and merely glanced at the paying croupier to see if he were to be paid or if his money was going to be raked away.

"That is the man I ought to have married," thought Margaret. "A man who has plenty of money, and who is evidently indifferent as to what becomes of it."

The gentleman paid no attention to her; now and then he would look round to see if his wife were within sight, but he took no notice of the little crowd of people who had gathered near him. The lady was a long time at the roulette table, and during her absence her husband continued to win.

Margaret stayed there gazing over the banknotes that with almost monotonous regularity he kept picking up, and she longed that some of them might find their way into her pocket. Presently the lady returned and said, "I have won such a lot of money. How have you been getting on?"

And then her husband told her that he had also won, and that he thought they had better leave for the present. So they walked away, and sat down and lazily counted their winnings. Margaret followed them with her eyes, and saw them carefully folding the thousand franc notes, and the sight made her sick. "I dare say they don't want them," she said to herself, "and a quarter of what they have won would keep me for a year." She sighed as she turned away and walked up to a roulette table to risk a few five-franc pieces.

(To be continued.)

THE HAMPSHIRE SHOOTING CASE.

Verdict of Manslaughter.

An inquest was held at Blackwater, near Farnborough, by Mr. Spencer Clarke, coroner for North Hants, on the body of William Rouse, a game-keeper, who was shot on the night of the 18th inst. by Dr. S. G. Milner, of King's-road, Upper Norwood. Mr. R. Furber watched the case for the accused, and Mr. Hawes appeared for Dr. Milner's family. Dr. Edward Milner, brother of the deceased, was present.—Thomas Knight, a gardener, living at Blackwater, said he saw Rouse, who was a game-keeper, on the evening of the 18th, at the Swan Hotel. It was then about twenty minutes to ten o'clock. They went out of the hotel together and walked up the road. They met a man some way up the road, and the man, who now proved to be Dr. Milner, inquired the way to Reading. Witness directed him, and he then asked if they could relieve him. They walked on, and made no answer. Milner followed them a few yards, and Rouse and witness stopped and lighted their pipes. Rouse held the match up and said to Milner, "I know you." Rouse and witness then walked to where the road diverged and wished each other "Good night." They then went home. Milner did nothing when Rouse said, "I know you." Rouse told Milner he knew him in order to frighten him. He did not really know Milner. Witness had been home about ten minutes when Rouse and his son came to the house. Rouse said his son thought from the description that he had seen the same man looking through the hedge at the Oaks early in the morning. Thinking it was a man about to commit a burglary, they all three started down the road to try and see him again. Milner came along and again asked the way to Reading. Witness remarked that he had asked them that question already. Milner then turned away in a hurry. Rouse and his son started to follow him, and Milner began to run. Witness followed some yards behind, having a bad foot. It was a dark night. Rouse got near to Milner, and witness heard a sort of a scuffle. They stumbled. After they had run a few yards further, they both fell down. Suddenly there were two flashes and two reports. The shot appeared to be fired one after the other immediately after they fell. The men appeared to be on the ground when the shots were fired. Witness came up to them, and Rouse said, "I'm shot. I'm a dead man." Witness went towards Milner, who said, "If you come any further, I'll serve you the same." Something seemed to glister in his hand. Witness left the spot to look for the police.—By the Coroner: What justified you in trying to detain Milner in the road?—Witness: I do not know. We thought he was some man who was going to do something. By Mr. Furber: Dr. Milner's desire appeared to be to get away, and they wanted to detain him to get him into custody.—Frederick Rouse, a youth, the deceased, was the son of William Rouse, who was the servant of the deceased.

At NICE.

In due course of time Mrs. Byng arrived at Nice. She had altered her original idea of staying at Monte Carlo, and had decided to make her first halting-place Nice. Monte Carlo had of late years become exorbitantly dear, and so she determined that she would stay at a quiet hotel at Nice, and go over to the gambling-place whenever she felt inclined. The country was well-known to her. She had often visited the Riviera with her father, and roulette and trente et quartier possessed no mysteries for her. She travelled straight through from London, and, sparing no expense, took the train de luxe.

Economy was a thing unknown to her, and she thoroughly realised the fact that the question of a few pounds would make no difference in her future life. When she reached Nice, she drove to a small hotel in the Avenue de la Gare, and engaged a sitting-room and a bed-room for a month. She felt in high spirits, and full of hope for the future. The climate alone was enough to revive her. The sun shone brightly, the air was clear and crisp, and heavily laden with the scent of roses and lilac and other flowers sold in the streets, and, above all, she was free to do as she might please. The day after her arrival she busied herself in decorating her rooms, and making everything look comfortable, and then at last, when she felt herself well settled, she made up her mind to go over to Monte Carlo and try her luck.

She had prepared a neat little excuse in case she should meet any of her friends. The doctors had ordered her abroad suddenly, just as her husband had been given a Government appointment,

and thus it was she had been obliged to come alone. The separation was very painful—very

OUR OMNIBUS.

THE M.P.

The desperate straits to which the success of the Budget has reduced the fighting wing of the Opposition are seen on all sides. Never was so complete a rout, and their futile efforts to get up a cry against Mr. Goschen are highly amusing. Sir William Harcourt shedding crocodile tears over the woes of the income-tax payer, whom, when in office, he nearly bled to death; poor Mr. Pictou left alone to conduct the attack on the tea duties, and thereby condemning every Liberal Chancellor of the Exchequer since 1865; and Mr. Halley Stewart waxing eloquent in defence of the high prices of the small grocers; this was the sum and substance of Tuesday's Budget debate, and a sorrier exhibition has seldom been seen. Mr. Gladstone himself could get up no interest in it, and preferred to go and drink tea with Mr. and Mrs. Broadhurst, an interesting event which was duly advertised in the morning papers next day. Mr. Labouchere has his own explanation of the surplus. "The increased revenue is due to the fact that men drink more with a Tory than with a Liberal Government." A Liberal England is a sober England, and a Tory England is a drinking England." This view apparently conflicts with his frequent declarations that the country at the present time is overwhelmingly Liberal. Mr. Goschen, however, is not yet "out of the wood." There are signs that the new spirit duties are by no means well received in many quarters, especially in Scotland and Ireland, and there may yet be some bad quarters of an hour for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The opposition will come chiefly from the distillers and wholesale traders, and their discontent arises, not so much from the amount of the duty, which they would willingly have made larger, as from the disadvantage at which they will be placed as against foreign importers. They complain that vast quantities of the vilest Hamburg potato spirit are landed at Leith and other ports, blended with little Scotch or Irish whisky, and sold as the genuine "mountain dew." Hitherto they have been able to supply the real article at a rate which will compete on equal terms with the wares of the rascally foreigner, but they fear that the increased duty will give him an unfair advantage. The mischief may be met, it is thought, by increasing the stringency of the Merchandise Marks Act, and it is intended to bring the matter before the committee which is now sitting. But, unless some remedy can be devised, we may look forward to another Irish grievance, and that much more formidable affair, a Scotch one.

An interesting calculation has been made of the outcome of Mr. Goschen's four Budgets. Since 1886 the revenue has exceeded expectations by over £6,000,000, expenditure has been reduced by £6,000,000, surpluses have accrued to the extent of more than £9,000,000, £29,000,000 of National Debt have been paid off, the income-tax has been reduced by £4,000,000 a year, the tobacco duty by £650,000 a year, the tea and currants duty by £1,700,000, the house duty by £500,000, the interest on the National Debt by £1,500,000; while, on the other hand, £2,000,000 per annum has been devoted to naval defence, and over £3,500,000 has been granted in relief of local taxation. In the same period the value of our export and import trade has gone up by £124,000,000, and the cargo traffic by sea has increased by nearly 8,000,000 of tons. There is no precedent, even in the palmy days of 1873, when Mr. Gladstone spoke of the revenue as advancing by leaps and bounds, for such a financial triumph, and it ought, if brought home to the electors, to be worth many thousands of votes at the next election.

A little unreported incident which occurred in the House on Monday night is instructive, as showing the agricultural labourers who are their real friends. Sir Edward Birkbeck and other Conservative and Unionist members have brought in a bill to enable boards of guardians to compel the builders of any new cottages in rural districts to supply sufficient bed-room accommodation and proper drainage and ventilation. It also empowers them to secure the provision of suitable garden ground for each cottage hereafter to be built. One would have thought that these objects were laudable and deserving of support, but when the bill came on for second reading, Dr. Tanner, upon whom the late Mr. Biggar's mantle has descended, objected to its further progress, and it being after twelve o'clock, such objection is fatal. Pressed, however, by Sir E. Birkbeck to withdraw his opposition, he so far relented as to offer to consent to do so if any of the Liberal members who took an interest in the subject would say a word in support of the bill. There were present, among others, Mr. Channing, Mr. Halley Stewart, and Captain Verney, all returned by the votes of agricultural labourers, but not one of them made a sign, and the consequence is that an opportunity of passing an admittedly useful bill, against which there is no real opposition, is lost for the present session. Rather than allow a Conservative member to have the credit of passing it, they would prefer that a valuable measure should be indefinitely postponed.

The death of Mr. Handel Cossham almost with the precursors of the House recalls the tragic incident in 1878 when Mr. Wykeham Martin, the member for Rochester, was struck down under almost similar circumstances, and died before he could be removed to his home, and the House adjourned without doing any further business. Mr. Cossham was a Radical of the advanced type, one who could never call anything good which proceeded from a Conservative government, and who bitterly and unrelentingly denounced Mr. Balfour and all his works on many platforms, being constantly in great request. But personally he was not unpopular in the House, though he took every opportunity of escaping from it. He represented what might be called the East-end of Bristol—it is curious how that quarter of nearly all our great towns should be the poorest—and had a large majority at both his elections. The Conservatives have concentrated their strength in the other divisions of the town, and it is unlikely that they will be able to secure this seat, but that they will fight it seems to be certain, and the name of Mr. Bucknill, Q.C., has been more than once mentioned in connection with it during the last few months. He would be an able champion of the Unionist cause, as he is a dashing speaker and well known in the town.

OLD IZAAK.

Delightfully ingenuous and genuinely humorous is Mr. Andrew Lang in his short papers on "The Confessions of a Duffer" in the last number of a fishing contemporary, as, for instance, when he admits that a creel is to him a superfluous. Not many lovers of the rod would be found to write of himself as a duffer, though Mr. Lang gives himself countenance in the following passage:—"There is no false modesty in the confidence with which I esteem myself a duffer at fishing. Some men are born duffers, others become so by an infinite capacity for not taking pains. Others, among whom I would rank myself, combine both these elements of incompetence. Nature, that made me enthusiastically fond of fishing, gave me thumbs for fingers, short-sighted eyes, indolence, carelessness, and a temper which is goaded to madness by the laws of matter and of gravitation. For example, when another man is caught up in a branch he disengages his fly; I jerk at it till something breaks."

After reading Mr. Lang's naively-told confessions, it is easy to understand why his success as a fisherman is not greater than he pleads guilty to, and one can well imagine that it is only an intense love of the sport which takes Mr. Lang to the riverside. I must wish such a good sportsman better luck, and hope he will find it

necessary on future expeditions to provide himself with a large creel.

I learn that a new angling society has been formed on the banks of the Lee at Clapton, but as my informant has not vouchsafed the name of the club or place of meeting, I am at present unable to give my readers further particulars. However, I wish the club every success.

I am pleased to record the fact that Mr. F. Tomlin, the hon. secretary of the Pontefract Angling Society, has forwarded two guineas to the Thames Angling Defence Fund on behalf of his society. I am glad to find the movement spreading. Every society worthy the name should contribute something.

Mr. J. P. Wheeldon, in his "Piscatorial Hotch-potch" (the title is Mr. Wheeldon's, not mine), in the *Sportsman*, sees fit to have a tilt at G. H. Field's suggestion of a rod tax. What I wrote last week was purely in the interest of the great army of working men anglers, in whose eyes I have yet to find that such a proposition finds favour. Mr. Wheeldon and Mr. Field led to the contrary notwithstanding. Indeed, I repeat there are numbers of the class I speak for who would be deprived of their pastime should such a tax be imposed.

Why, I may ask, should the fisherman have his rod taxed? Does my carp fishing imagine for one single instant that the votaries of any other class of sport would willingly consent to be taxed? Take, for instance, the case of cyclists. Do they pay for the roads they use? Rather is it not the fact that a huge outcry meets every suggestion of a wheel tax? My critic makes much of my assertion that anglers are, and must be, good customers to the hosts of riverside houses of refreshment—a fact one would think which need not be argued.

My working men friends, who have read this gentleman's ill-natured remarks, will appreciate them at their true value when I mention the fact that he is himself a publican.

But there, one does not care to argue with one who can talk in the strain adopted by the writer in my contemporary, especially when he deals in covert sneers at the readers of a paper having a circulation well calculated to make the proprietors of his own turn green with envy. Go to, Mr. W., the readers of the *Sportsman*, at least equal to them in that respect. It is to be hoped that when next you take exception to the writings of a brother scribe you will do so in a more courteous manner.

Mr. Andrews, of Guildford, writes respecting the damage a heron can do to a trout stream, that a few mornings ago one of these birds destroyed no less than thirty-eight yearling trout. It is necessary to learn that the cormorant was captured. "Perhaps," Mr. Andrews humorously remarks, "the dear bird had been observing Lent strictly, and had got a little hungry by Easter." By the way, it is satisfactory to hear that the hundred yearling grayling presented to the Thames by Mr. Andrews, which were turned down a week ago in the London, are doing well, and may be seen rising freely at times.

PIPER PAN.

The most important of recent musical events was the production by the Carl Rosa Opera Company of the new grand opera, "Thorgrim," on Tuesday last, when my most sanguine expectations were realised. The libretto, written by Mr. Joseph Bennett, and founded on an old Norwegian legend, is dramatically excellent, and many of the lyrics are of more than ordinary merit. I cannot find space for a description of the plot or analysis of the masterly music composed by Mr. F. H. Cowen, but must congratulate librettist and composer on the great success they have honestly won.

The love-duet sung by Thorgrim (Mr. McGuckin) and Olof (Middle, De Lussan) in Act III., appears to me to be Mr. Cowen's masterpiece; the exquisite melodies still haunt my ear. The choral music is strikingly characteristic and effective, and in the orchestration the growth of the composer's skill since he wrote his first opera, "Pauline," is convincingly demonstrated.

The cast was a strong one, including not only Middle, De Lussan and Mr. McGuckin, but Mr. Crotty, Mr. F. Colli, Mr. Max Eugene, Miss Kate Drew, and Middle Tremelli. The mounting of the opera and the skilful stage-management of Mr. Augustus Harris merited unstinted praise, and "Thorgrim" was welcomed heartily by the crowded audience, including the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, and a large gathering of eminent musicians.

Lady Arthur Hill (composer of "In the Gloaming" and other successful compositions) has informed me that her pleasant operetta, "The Ferry Girl"—libretto by the Dowager Marchioness of Downshire—has recently been re-written, and will be performed at the Savoy Theatre on the afternoons of May 13th and 14th, in aid of the Fund for Distressed Irish Ladies. Lady Downshire has supplied a second act, which I have had the pleasure of perusing, and found it both interesting and diverting. The new music by Lady Arthur, including a sparkling tarantella, is worthy of her accomplished pen.

The chorus and orchestra will be professional; the principal parts will be taken by Mrs. Godfrey Pearce (daughter of Mario), Miss Mervyn Keating, Mr. Louis Mantell, Captain Ricardo (Grenadier Guards), and Mr. Bispham. Mr. Francois Cellier will conduct. When I add that the tarantella will be danced by Lady Augusta Fane and Mr. Colnaghi, I think my readers will admit that the aristocracy are willing to exert themselves on behalf of a good cause, and I trust that many readers of the People will be found amongst the Savoy Theatre audience on this occasion.

A few days back I received an American telegram, informing me that Madame Nordica will arrive in England before the end of April. Madame Albani will arrive here before the end of May, and both artists will be heartily welcomed.

Mr. Frederic Lamond gave an interesting piano-forte recital at Prince's Hall on Wednesday last, and delighted a large audience by masterly performances of classical and modern compositions. Miss Hilda Wilson on Tuesday last gave the first of three vocal recitals at St. Einwy Hall, assisted by her sister and two brothers. Mr. Dykes gave a piano-forte recital at Prince's Hall on Wednesday. These three concerts were under the able management of Mr. Vert. On Wednesday last "The Golden Legend" was performed by the Royal Choral Society. The list of "musical events of the week," published as usual in Monday's *Globe*, included between thirty and forty.

Vincent Wallace's "Maritana" was produced by the Carl Rosa Opera Company on Wednesday last with great success. Miss Georgina Burns (Maritana), Mr. Child (Don Cesario de Bazan), Mr. Crotty (Don Jose), Mr. Max Eugene (the King), and Miss Grace Digby (Lazarillo), won well-merited applause from a crowded audience, and I can assure my readers that they would find the Drury Lane performance of "Maritana" exceptionally excellent.

I have occasionally sought to provide amusement by quoting the "high falutin'" criticisms of American journalists. A valued friend has sent me a copy of an English journal, entitled the *Clerk*, which contains a notice of the Royal Choral Society's performance of Handel's "Israel in Egypt," and the English "critic" (?) appears to me to surpass his American rivals. He says that Mr. M. Kay's voice "cleft the silence of the huge hall like a shaft of light through a thunder-cloud," and in one of his solos "showed his genius to an

extent that elicited a perfect fury of approbation," having put "terrific meaning into the words."

As a final *bonne bouche*, I must quote the Clerk's notice of the Hailstone Chorus, to which I have listened scores of times without discovering the effects described by the Clerk. It appears that on this occasion "there was the hiss of the hail, the roar of the wind, the roll of the thunder, the shriek of dying men, the wail of suffering tortured cattle, all combined in one appalling, throbbing mass of sound." Let the Yankees beat that they can!

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

A French writer gives some interesting statistics, taken from various authoritative sources, in connection with the velocity of a carrier pigeon's flight. It is estimated that under ordinary circumstances and for short distances the bird travels at the rate of about three-quarters of a mile in a minute. With a moderate wind favouring its course, it will accomplish 1,340 yards in the same time; a gale increases its speed to 1,980 yards per minute, or about a mile and an eighth. This enormous velocity cannot, however, be maintained for many miles; an express train on any of our great lines will probably beat the fastest pigeon that ever flew over a course of sixty or seventy miles. In 1883, when the great race took place from Calvi, in Corsica, to Verviers in Belgium, a distance of 565 miles, the first birds that came in did in twenty-seven hours, being at the rate of a trifile over 600 yards per minute, or twenty-one miles an hour throughout. As between 600 and 700 champion carriers took part in the contest, the leading birds must have been very fast above the whole construction, in short, turned inside out."

It will be seen, therefore, that the velocity of the pigeon's flight is not much greater than that of a cyclist on hard level ground, and very much less than the speed of fast trains. But the swallow, which is now being trained in France as a carrier, should be able to keep up a pace of a mile a minute for long journeys. The exact velocity of its flight has never been accurately measured, but, judging from the lightning-like manner in which it flashes past pigeons and other birds, its speed must be quite equal to that of the fastest express train—probably far quicker.

The importation of foreign grass snakes appears to increase every year, showing that these reptiles are in greater success as pets than formerly. For myself, I much prefer the English ones; they are better feeders, have more robust constitutions, and are, I think more intelligent. The one difficulty in keeping snakes is to prevent their escape. If there be the slightest chink anywhere, they will force their bodies through and be off. I give this caution because I have lately heard of several cases in which snakes escaped through tiny apertures through which it seemed quite impossible for them to force their heads, let alone their bodies.

With reference to cuckoos in captivity, Mr. Gardiner writes that a friend of his, living near Regent's Park, has had one caged in his possession since last spring. It was brought up to London by a hay cart, and was placed in a wicker cage. It feeds principally on chopped meat. It is apparently quite healthy. This is a very unusual circumstance, and I do not remember hearing of a similar case before. If this cuckoo would only indulge in its well-known note, as my correspondent hopes it may, it would be a great delight, not only to its owner, but to the whole neighbourhood. Should this wish be fulfilled, I would be much obliged if my correspondent would inform me of it.

Mr. Frederick Wilderspin mentions that a chicken was lately hatched with four legs, four wings, two neck bones, but only one head. The bird did not live, as few of these freaks do. Mr. Hopkins, of Half-Nichol-street, Shoreditch, however, has an eight-legged King Charles puppy which is alive and well.

Mr. Skinner very kindly writes to say that on Easter Monday he observed the following insects:—The bloody-neck beetle (so called from the red fluid which he exudes when irritated), or as he is more pleasingly termed by coleopterists, Timarcha luteoviridis, was common, as was the oil-beetle, Meloe proscarabaeus; and one specimen of the small garden white, Pieris rapae, was seen, an early date for this species. Among reptiles, my correspondent observed both the slow-worm and the viper sunning themselves on the grass.

There is no doubt that trapping wild animals possesses a very deep charm for many people. Even the rats, and rabbits, and weasels which abound in every county of England afford sport in this manner to the devotees of the iron trap and the wire noose. I know that it is often argued that cruelty is involved in this pursuit, but is there not cruelty in nearly all of those sports in which some wild animal plays the principal part? Is the fox, which is pursued to the last gasp before the bounds, killed in the most merciful manner? does the fawn enjoy being caught on a hook? or the pheasant, being shot, and very likely, only wounded, so that it dies a lingering death? Let those only, therefore, who are prepared to do away with all these sports blame the trapper. Of course, he may overdo his business, and set to work to exterminate many of the animals in a district. Then he is to be checked. But there is much skill necessary to ensnare the wily weasel or the knowing rat, and proficiency can only be gained by practice. Let the trapper visit his traps as often as possible, so as to shorten the creature's sufferings, and let him be careful that no domestic animal is caught by mistake. A young gentleman of my acquaintance the other day set a skilfully-planned trap for a stoat, who was frequenting the neighbourhood of a rabbit burrow. First he captured the house cat, who had no business near the rabbits. She was not seriously hurt, but, doubtless, received a lesson. Then he caught the dog, who was with his master, and was only doing his duty in sniffing round near the bait. At last he caught the stoat, and in removing it from the trap he caught his own fingers, which was a warning to him to be more careful.

THE ACTOR.

Those who were at the Court Theatre on Wednesday last, I think, have been struck by one thing in particular—namely, the points of similarity in the part played by Mrs. John Wood with that which she played in the little one-act piece called "My Milliner's Bill." In both cases Mrs. Wood has to represent a wife who has been extravagant and is in constant dread of her creditors. Singularly enough, too, Mr. Cecil has played the husband in both pieces, and in both pieces he has had to turn the tables upon his erring spouse.

It was a very pleasant evening, this at the Court. The theatre is a favourite of mine, not only because it is so nicely fitted up, but because one can get all over it in so short a space of time. Friends can greet one another with ease. In some theatres the fact of being located on one side of the stalls isolates you from everybody on the other. At the Court, as at Terry's, the Vaudeville, and a few other moderate-sized theatres, you seem to belong to a family party, with every member of which communication is easy. On Wednesday, the waits at the Court were tolerably long, and in the three intervals between the acts there was much greeting of acquaintances and much talk about the piece—and other things.

In the afternoon some of us had been at the Criterion, where we had had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Wyndham in two of Charles Mathews' most notable parts. I venture to think that the Criterion manager surpassed his prototype in both characters. In "Delicate Ground" he had more earnestness, and in "Trying It On" more verve than Mathews, delightful as he was, ever exhibited. It is a mistake to compare the two actors. Wyndham has much more "go" than Mathews ever had. The great charm of the

elder actor was his imperturbability and his "patter." In these he has never been equalled.

"London Assurance," at the Avenue on Tuesday, was somewhat of a disappointment. There was a want of homogeneity in the performance. It seemed not to hang well together. The Sir Harcourt Courtney was not sonorous enough; the Charles Courtney was too boisterous; the Dazzle was too heavy; the Grace lacked charm; and the Lady Gay Spanker wanted vivacity; and so on. And yet the cast, on paper, was a good one. The best performance to my mind was Mr. Arthur Williams, as Meddle—a genuine piece of humour.

The version of Schiller's "Mary Stuart" which Mrs. Bandmann is going to revive at the Grand, Islington, on Monday, is nearly ten years old, having been first played at the Court Theatre in October, 1880. In this piece Madame Modjeska was the original Mary, Miss Louise Moodie being the Queen Elizabeth, John Clayton the Earl of Leicester, and other parts being taken by Mr. J. D. Beveridge and Miss Cissie Grahame. This, however, was not the first adaptation into English of Schiller's tragedy. Fanny Kemble (Mrs. Butler) had produced a version in 1867, when the title part was sustained by that very clever actress, Mlle. Beatrice.

A few days ago Mr. Wilson Barrett produced in Philadelphia a play which Mr. Jerome K. Jerome and Mr. Addison Bright had written for Miss Eastlake, and which that lady had taken out with her to America. Its title, we gather, is "What a Woman Will Do." The authors now complain that, according to letters received, their piece has practically been re-written. "The plot, so far as we can gather, appears to have been completely re-cast, and its essential points ignored. Scenes have been cut out and others written in, and the whole construction, in short, turned inside out."

Under the circumstances, the authors "re-allocate all responsibility or credit" for the play in question. They consented to "necessary alterations," but by that they understood "those small and unimportant cuts and touches always necessary during the rehearsals of a new play." We have yet, of course, to hear the other side, and meanwhile I am told that in "What a Woman Will Do" Mr. Barrett is positively playing the rôle of the villain, which has been promoted to the position of chief character in the piece.

Mr. Lionel Rignold, who has made so great a success as Jack Gong in "Green Bushes," tells some interesting stories of his early career as an actor. He made his début at Cardiff, where, on the first night of his engagement, appearing in "Catherine Howard," he distinguished himself by announcing Henry VIII. as "her Majesty the King." Afterwards, at Whitehaven, he played sometimes in as many as twelve pieces in a week, undertaking, as a rule, two or three parts in each drama as well as the labour of "prompting."

At Glasgow, later on, Mr. Rignold shared the comedy parts with Mr. J. L. Shine, who is now sharing them with him at the Adelphi. At Ipswich, where Mr. Rignold went into management, he not only played the comic roles, but was his own stage manager, prompter, property-man, occasional bill-steerer, and, when necessary, assisted in the orchestra.

GENERAL CHATTER.

The London gamin has many defects of character, no doubt, but for reading-as-a-resource he has few equals. An amusing exemplification of this trait occurred the other afternoon in a western suburb. Two little urchins in charge of an empty truck were being persecuted by half a dozen bigger lads. Recognising that hisics were out of the question against such odds, one of the persecuted, after whispering a word or two to his companion, ran off. Had he gone to fetch the police? Not a bit of it. He went straight to an adjacent drinking fountain, filled his mouth with water, and thus furnished with ammunition to fire at

CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From Moonshine.)

The Paris gravediggers have threatened to stop work. Well, we should not be surprised if they carried out their menace. It would not be the first time that gravediggers have left their employers in a hole.

(HOMING MUMAH.)

Succi might, after forty days off feed, Digesting dinner, call himself Succeed; But if stern Fate should downward turn her thumb,

His friends might call him, with regret, Succumb!

Mr. Gladstone is scattering letters congratulating himself on the rapid strides of his cause. But we are afraid the progress is all on paper—in fact, stationary.

Mr. Matthews would, probably, not object to the formation of a "Society for the Prevention of Crowley to Home Secretaries."

Mr. Toole has beaten the record. He has actually given a morning performance which did not take place in the afternoon.

There may be an Artemus Ward in some Yankee hospital, but we are unaware of its existence.

A certain Charles Thompson, of Georgetown, Kentucky, has, after promising to marry seven young and beautiful Georgetown girls, disappeared. Poor fellow, which of them has got him?

(From Punch.)

THE LAW AND THE LIVER. Two magistrates have decided that selling coffee "containing 80 per cent. of chicory" is not punishable under the Adulteration Act.—Ever since drinking my morning cup of what my grocer humorously describes as "French coffee," I have suffered from headache, vertigo, and uncontrollable dyspepsia.

I wonder what can be the cause?—Perhaps the lesson she gave him made him smart.

In a recent lunacy case one of the witnesses testified to seeing a Miss Jones (the alleged lunatic) standing on her head. We should hardly regard this as an evidence of insanity, however, since the lady could not be said to have been "off her head" at the time.

Spring Flowers—Stinging nettles (when you sit on em). People who are Always on the Look-out for a Situation—Playwrights.

Very Hard Lines—Tram metals.

(From Ally Sloper.)

Sweet is it indeed to know that nature moves at last, that Flora walks, and the buds rise dimpling beneath her feet. Then the humble Jones soweth the mustard and cress in the shade of the simple dust-bin and watereth it with the antique coffee-pot, and the crop riseth and the night-time cometh, and lo! the honest tortoiseshell Thomas takes his rest thereon, and Jones opens his window in the moonlight and n-tieeth the sac-rifice and good luck. Well is aimed the old man at the head of the slumbering feline. What art can reproduce the lovely picture?

She was young, and she was fair, And of that was well aware, 'Cos she saw the fellers stare.

Said her ma, "My dearest May, Laws-a-daisy—lack-a-day,

List not what the fellers say."

But that maiden, simple, free,

Said, "It's nicey, don't you see:

He kissed me, mummy, he, he, he!"

"She had a large mouth, had she?" "Yes; rather!" "Did it stretch from ear to ear?" "Worse still! Her ears were stuck in the middle of her lips—fact!" "Go up one, Ananias; don't crowd the farm."

Mrs. Meek, whose husband knocks her down regularly every Saturday night and jumps on her by way of a treat on bank holidays, says that she considers the wedding-ring should be re-named and called the suffer-ring.

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A CHILD OF THE SLUMS.

At the Marybone Police Court, a precocious youth, with unkempt hair and sharp, deep-set eyes, giving the name of Williams, and saying that he was 16 years of age, was brought before Mr. De Rutzten for the fourth time, on remand, charged with burglarizing.—On March 30th Detectives Enticknap and Clark, F Division, saw the prisoner at a street crossing in Gloucester-place, Hyde Park, with broom in his hand, begging. The lad had been frequently cautioned, and when he saw the officers he ran off. When caught, the boy, with a smile, said, "Ah, you can't get me sent to a school, you know, because I'm over 16 years old." He pretended that he did not know where he lived, and refused to give any information about himself. Mr. De Rutzten asked the boy if he was quite certain as to his age, and he replied that he was. Thereupon the magistrate ordered a remand. The officers made inquiries, and discovered the boy's mother living in that part of Notting Hill which is known to be the rendezvous of the beggars plying their vocation in the West-end or London. She attended the court and assured the magistrate that her son was a good boy, and promised solemnly that if he was dismissed, he should never do such a thing again; in fact, she would take him hopping. Questioned several times as to his exact age, she adhered to his statement that he was over 16 years.—Mr. de Rutzten: Why do you say that? How do you know the date of his birth? When was it?—The Mother: Well, I know he's 16, because he was twelve months old when Wainwright, the murderer was hanged. (Laughter.)—Further inquiries were made, and on the case coming again before the court an officer of the X Division informed the magistrate that the lad had undergone fourteen days' imprisonment for burglary and other offences. The mother had recently got married. The boy, who was illegitimate, had begged to keep the home going.—Enticknap and Clark informed the magistrate that the registers at Somerset House had been searched, but no record of the boy's birth could be found. His birth had not been registered. The mother, re-called, said, in reply to the magistrate, that the boy was born in St. Giles's, and, as he was ill, was christened in Betsy Timms's lodging house. (A laugh)—A scene here took place, the boy and his mother both imploring the magistrate to let him off this time.—Mr. de Rutzten observed that there was no evidence that the boy was to be, and, age the mother represented him to be, and, taking from the lad's appearance, and taking into account all the circumstances of the case, he (the magistrate) should convict him, and send him to prison for ten days and afterwards to a reformatory for four years.

AN AMBIGUOUS ANSWER.—Emily: I fear I am rather monopolising the fire, but I literally ache with cold; do you mind?—Millicent: Oh, not in the least, my dear.

GILDED HORSES.—Mrs. Penhoek: But see what it says, Frederick: "If Mr. Frederick Penhoek, late of Brompton Grove, will call upon Messrs. Poke and Pray, inquiry agents and solicitors, Redgate Buildings, Chancery-lane, he will hear of something to his advantage."—Penhoek: To my advantage! Sum of money left by unknown testator? Those shares in the Nevada silver mine come up trumps after all? Or—stay—I have it! Your first husband, supposed to have been drowned at sea, has turned up alive and hearty! Ah-h-h!—Bushes off.

AT THE RIDING SCHOOL.—Brown Equestrian: Look here, Smith, this brute ain't a bit o' good; shall chuck him in another minute or two.—Smith: All right, old chappie; shouldn't wonder if he hadn't arrived at the same conclusion.—(As it turned out, he had.)

Surveying—Seeing what means you may get the best of a bargain.

Not at settling day last week nor again this; I'm afraid it'll be up with Timson," says Snooker.

"Quite the reverse—it's all down with him, and influenza jumping upon him," explains Spankers, between a sneeze and reference to the contents of the tumbler before him—something hot with a slice of lemon floating in it.

"The Stuart dy-nasty," said good Mrs. Jones.

Mr. S. F. Langham had reported to him the death of a waterside labourer, named Robert Sharp, aged 24, of 7, Medley's-place, Bermondsey. The deceased was employed at Mark Brown's wharf, Tooley-street, and whilst at work on a barge fell overboard. He immediately sank, and was never again seen until a waterman named Hurley fished his dead body up with a hitches.

"I should think they did die nasty, considering how Charles I. had his 'd cut off. You couldn't very well die nastier than that, could you?"

(From Funny Folks.)

HER OWN DOG-TOE.—A story is running through the press of an economical lady, who, rather than waste the remainder of a bottle of medicine which had cured her, administered it to her sick poodle, and killed him thereby. This ought to teach people to be cautious about adopting the advice to "throw physic to the dogs"—unless, of course, they happen to have a grudge against the poor animal.

THE KROON CUR.—The London County Council has passed a resolution that "the National Sunday League be allowed to place a band on Hampstead Heath on Sundays provided they now on a spot to be approved by the committee."

Now that's what we call a happy stroke of business.

We sincerely hope that the play on the spot will be a successful game, and that, for this purpose, at any rate, the spot stroke won't be barred.

GOING TO THE WALL.—It is easy to understand the indignation of the bill-posters at the rating of hoarlings which is now being enforced in every parish. Hitherto they have had the privilege of sticking up bills on hoarlings, but when parish authorities take to sticking up bills on hoarlings and, pretty heavy ones, why, it is to think over things. And then the parish has such an advantage. The bill-poster at least sticks at some hinge, but the parish in its anxiety after the rates sticks at nothing!

A LEGAL ENCOUNTER.—A Chicago lawyer has just been horse-whipped by one of his own lady clients: Which shows that there's at least one woman in the world who's clever enough to beat a lawyer. And it's probable that he's learned something from her, too; for however dull he may have been previously, there's very little doubt that the lesson she gave him made him smart.

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Scotch the last thing at night to Irish—that's the

thing that would turn my hair grey, only I've so

much youth about me it could never happen."

A DOUTFUL COMPLIMENT.—Oh, yes, Sir Gus,

my husband's as well as ever, thank you, and hard at work.

We've had to copy out his pain-tablet

on bimetalism three times: he alters it so! Ah,

its no sinecure to be married to a man of genius!

Not much to do, but it's a deal of fun to be a grand dame once in a while.

He's often envious of us, but we're not bad to look at.

He's a good husband, though he's a bit of a bore.

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THE THEATRES.

COURT.

Mr. Tinero, with frank honesty, describes his latest production, "The Cabinet Minister," seen for the first time on Wednesday night, as a farce—for farce it is, both in its rather meagre, but extravagant plot and highly coloured course of characters, who, however, carry on their high jinks by help of a series of brilliant dialogues, worthy in many passages of being rated as comedy. Indeed, nothing but the excellent writing in the piece could have sustained so slight—not to say flimsy—a story through four long acts without weariness to the distinguished audience headed by the Prince of Wales and one of his daughters, who filled the house to overflowing. But instead of impatience there was general satisfaction which, whenever the intermittent wit evoked anew evidently rose to exhilaration, and even to delight. Ringing laughter greeted the keen cynicism of the remark made by a confirmed idler, "It's this stupid all-round desire to work which throws so many people out of employment;" a second peal came at another comic utterance in the form of the querulous complaint against a vulgar end in the company, "Why does he tell long stories with no meaning in them—or else with two!" The plot of "The Cabinet Minister," enlivened by such clever wit salutes as these, turns upon the same domestic imbroglio as that of the author's "Schoolmistress," only the other way about; for whereas in the old farce the wife is made the dupe of the husband's improprieties, in the new one the woman is the financial culprit, and her lord and master, the Cabinet Minister, becomes the victim. This middle-aged official the Right Hon. Sir Julian Twombly, M.P., has in earlier life made a mésalliance by allying himself to the daughter of a provincial shopkeeper, whose nature, vulgar as her speech and manners, prompts her to force her way by sumptuous display and lavish hospitality into such high society as eats her lavish dinners while sneering at their hostess. Running riot in extravagances, her ladyship, before she knows it, becomes so heavily involved in debt that, to hide it from her husband, she is driven to recklessly raise a loan from a certain Mr. Lebanon, a young money-lender, to whom she gives bills in exchange for the loan. Under the menace of refusing to renew these bills for their falling due, the swaggering Israelite compels his creditor to introduce both himself and his sister, a scheming young widow, into society, not only as visitors at her own entertainments, but also by letting them accompanying her as fellow-guests to a Scotch castle at which Lady Twombly and her husband are invited to stay. The mean little usurer, with his obtrusive familiarities, disgusts everybody, while his sister secretly tries to get the son of her hostess, a young Scotch laird, as big and foolish as he is rich, into her toils by luring him into making her an offer of marriage. Threatening Lady Twombly for the second time with non-renewal of the bills, the Hebrew in slyly tempts his victim by offering to cancel and return the bills if she will betray to him a certain Cabinet secret contained in papers which, in her mental distraction, she has avowed lie open in the room of her husband, setting forth whether or not the Government grants a concession sought for to construct the new Rajputana Railway. Though the foolish woman resists his offer, the Jew gains his end by creeping, during her brief absence, into the Minister's room, and abstracting the coveted document, from which, in Sir Julian's own writing, he learns that the concession will be granted. Upon the strength of this information the delighted Mr. Lebanon hurries off to the nearest railway station, whence he "wires" his brokers to buy all the Rajputanas in the market. No sooner is more than the Minister confronts his wife, and extorts from her the full confession, not only of her debt, but the clandestine means she has taken to hide it, informing her, however, that, overhearing the conversation between herself and the Jew, he had at once returned to his room, removed the real despatch which refused the concession, and in its place had written another ostensibly granting it. The bitter is bit, the usurer stumbles into the fall prepared for him by the husband, but the peasant wife—what does she? Having learned from the Minister the secret missed by the Jew, she privately proceeds to use her information in the very same way that the Jew had done, telegraphing to her stockbrokers to sell Rajputanas for a fall. By this curiously questionable means she acquires a fortune, the news of which arrives by telegram simultaneously with the receipt of another message for Lebanon, announcing his heavy loss and consequent ruin. This startling denouement virtually brings the play to a close, after the Jew's intriguing sister has been baffled in her scheme to catch the young laird and two pairs of lovers constituting an insignificant element in the plot have been duly paired off. As the silly upstart wife of the Cabinet Minister, "beggar on horseback," who almost fulfills the rest of the proverb, Mrs. John Wood, prompted probably by a laudable desire to create illusion by earnestness, out-Herodes Herod by such extravagant loudness of speech and wild gesticulation as almost extinguished her racy natural humour by the unbridled violence with which it was sought to be expressed, for even in farce, exaggeration has its limits. Mr. Arthur Cecil, as the Cabinet Minister, Sir Julian Twombly, presented a figure ludicrously comical, but still well within the limits good taste defines. As the big booby young laird, tied to the apron string of his highly Scotch mother, Mr. Brandon Thomas, cleverly made up to the stature and proportions of a giant, acted with dry characteristic humour. But the triumph of the cast was the Mr. Lebanon of Mr. Weedon Grossmith, who in face, apparel, speech, and action realised the absolute incarnation of a typical swell cad, overreached at last by his own leanness. Mr. Herbert Waring was excellent in the part of the frank and hearty young fellow, of gentle birth, but a hater of social conventionalities, roughened by life in the Australasian bush, who makes a capital foil by contrast with his artificial human surroundings, self-seeker either for vanity or gain, well defined and differentiated as played by Miss Le Thiré, Mrs. Edmund Phelps, and Miss Eva Moore. Miss Rosina Filippi wisely restrained herself from overdoing the sly cunning of the young Israelitish widow sister of the money-lender, intriguing for a rich second marriage while carrying on the trade of a fashionable milliner during the day as Manicette et Cie., and appears to her customers an aristocrat among aristocrats as a lady in society at night. Other parts were enacted by Mr. Ayeworth, Mr. F. Farren, Miss Ellinson, Miss F. Tanner, and Miss M. Caldwell. The piece, sumptuously staged and dressed, was received favourably during its progress, but some sounds of dissent were heard through the applause at the close, when Mr. Tinero, in answer to call, appeared to acknowledge it.

SHAFTEBURY.

An adaptation in blank verse by Mr. A. Berlyn, of M. Coppée's poetical one act play, "Le Luther de Cremona," entitled "The Violin Makers," preceded "Dick Venables" for the first time on Tuesday, with Mr. Willard seen in the part of Filippo. No representative of the character, including even the earliest, M. Coquelin, has invested it with such breadth of passion and depth of pathos as the latest impersonator, the earnestness and sincerity of whose voice and facial expression carried an absorbing interest in the story through the tearful sympathy aroused for its hero, the gentle self-sacrificing hunchback. The finest touch in this assumption was seen in the contrast between the poor young violin maker's enthusiasm for his art, as shown in the firmly assured consciousness of his genius that through its cherished masterpiece in the competition of violins he must win Giannina's hand, and the shrinking diffidence of

his tremulous hope lest his personal deformity should prevent him from also gaining her heart. By the grace of her presence and the tender, plaintive pleading of her acting, more eloquent even in looks than words, Miss Olga Brandon, as Giannina, made the self-sacrifice of her wretched lover seem all the nobler. As the favoured rival, Sandro, Mr. Elwood looked the part better than he acted it. The cast was completed by Mr. Alfred Bishop as Giannina's stubborn old father, whose biloious humour cast welcome glint of light across the general sadness of the picture. Taken all round, the piece has never been so well played as by its latest impersonators. The result was a triumph, notably for Mr. Willard, who was thrice recalled by the enthusiastic audience. "Dick Venables," which followed, much improved by its condensation into three acts, proved sufficiently interesting to grip and hold the attention of the audience throughout the development of its story, which, if not over now in its incidents and characters, is told with such sequent perspicacity as indicates the possession by its author of that rarest qualification for the stage writer, constructive ability. Truth to tell, had this melodrama been brought out at the Adelphi with an ordinary cast it would have been praised for its stagecraft; but, produced at the Shaftesbury, with Mr. Willard as its floridious hero, press and public alike visited upon the unlikely dramatist their disappointment at not seeing the actor they were delighted to honour in another "Middlemen." Whatever this minority of first nights may have thought of the piece, it was certainly received on Tuesday, and by a full house, with unqualified acclamation.

THE METROPOLITAN.

In selecting a subject for his latest sketch, Mr. William Bailey has rightly surmised that the preference shown by the public for Eastern romance would justify him in giving a summarised version of the story of Aladdin. Under the title of "A Bit of China," he has reproduced just sufficient of the well-known story as can be interpreted in dramatic and musical form in the time usually occupied by a music hall sketch, allowing for the introduction of the inevitable songs, dances, &c. The story is of a novel kind, being painted to represent willow pattern plate, forming very effective pictures. A competent company has been retained for its interpretation, among whom Mr. C. E. Stevens, F. Walton, and Miss A. Oliver are deserving of special mention for the manner in which they enact their respective parts. The graceful manoeuvres executed by the auxiliaries under the direction of the able and original Mr. J. D'Auban, recall memories of the time when short ballets were wont to figure in the entertainment here. The variety items are contributed by Mr. Charles Coborn, who explains in humorous verse the tricks of the trade as represented by the newsboy, though his succeeding essays are hardly up to his usual standard. Miss Millie Hylton has a good word to say for the "masher," and as Dick Turpin, invests a short scene dealing with that individual's history with a great success. Diverting knockabout business of a very good class is contributed by the Bowry Boys and Messrs. O'Connor and Brady; and Messrs. Rice, McRae, and company present a most laughable negro absurdity. Mr. Harry Lynn and daughters enact a version of a favourite comedy, under the title of "Good for Nothing Nan." The Sisters Preston contribute their amusing and tuneful duets, Miss Lottie Dettmar sings and dances in an engaging style, and a graceful and daring trapeze performance is gone through by La Belle Amora.

The question of the non-production of Mr. Haddon Chambers's play, "The Bouquet," by Mrs. Langtry, which was referred to Mr. Bancroft for settlement, has been decided in favour of the dramatist, to whom the arbitrator adjudged as compensation the substantial solatium of £250. Stratford-on-Avon made a public festival of the anniversary of Shakspeare's birthday on Wednesday. Flags were flying above all municipal buildings, and performances, directed by Mr. Osmond Tearle, of "King John," in which Miss Bessie Hatton played Prince Arthur, and of "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," were given in the afternoon and evening at the Memorial Theatre. The promoters of the Marlowe memorial have nominated Mr. H. A. Jones, Mr. Joseph Knight, Mr. Sidney Lee, and Mr. J. H. McCarthy, M.P., as the organising committee for a dramatic performance at West-end theatre in aid of the cause. Most of the leaders of the stage have volunteered their services, and from Mr. Irving and Miss Ellen Terry a promise has come of subscription of £100, the first fruits of their Shakspearian readings at St. James's Hall in July. A comedy, bearing the disputed title of "Wanted, a Wife," by Mr. J. H. Darnley, will shortly be tested in London. The royal claims for the tenancy of the Comedy between its present possessors and the syndicate who allege they have acquired a right to the theatre still remain unsettled.—When "The Red Hussar" has run its course in London it will be taken, with Miss Marie Tempest, to the United States.—"The Little Duke," a comic opera composed by Lecocq, to the libretto of "Bolton and Savile Rose," will be put on at the Lyric before Messrs. Collier and Stephenson's new opera is produced there.—"What Will a Woman Do?" is the title of a new play, written by Mr. J. K. Jerome, for Mr. Wilson Barrett, and to be tried forthwith at the Park Theatre, Philadelphia.—The Messrs. Gatti may be advised to engage Mrs. Bernard-Beere to play Miami, if they wish the piece to run successfully. The character of the Indian huntress, which just suits the trenchant strident style of this lady, is manifestly quite unfitted to the more domestic method of its present representative.—Mr. Sydney Grundy has communicated to the press the fact that Mrs. Langtry produced and played in "Esther Sandras" in America at a date anterior to the assumption of the character by Miss Amy Roselle at an afternoon performance here in London.—June 2nd is the date fixed for the first appearance of Madame Bernhardt at Her Majesty's.—The only salient impersonations of character in "London Assurance" at Mrs. Macklin's matinee on Tuesday at the Avenue were the Sir Harcourt Courtly of Mr. Macklin and the Max Hawkey of Mr. Charles Groves. The prompter also deserves a good word for his indefatigable exertions.—On Monday Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer will appear in the historical drama, "Mary Stuart" at the Grand Theatre; "Master and Man" will be revived at the Pavilion; and the series of English opera will be continued at the Standard. English opera will also be given at the Stratford Theatre by the Rousby company.

A LIFE LOST FOR SIXPENCE.

An inquest was held at Rotherhithe by Mr. Wyatt regarding the death of a man named Frank Shephard. His work was to keep watch at night on a number of barges on the Thames at Limehouse, but on March 29th he was missed, and nothing more was heard of him until the 17th inst., when his dead body was picked up in the river. It transpired that every time he wanted to go ashore the deceased would have to pay 6d. for a waterman to row him there and back, and it was suggested that as there was some floating timber between the barges and the shore, he had walked on it to avoid paying the 6d. and fallen in.—Mr. Pound (the coroner's officer) said the last witnessman on the barges at this spot lost his life in that manner. Eventually the jury returned an open verdict of found drowned.

In the case of Michael O'Brien, who was convicted and sentenced to death at Nenagh Winter Assizes for having poisoned his father-in-law at Limerick, the Dublin Court of Appeal delivered judgment upholding the decision of the Queen's Bench, which affirmed the conviction.

To DARKEN GARY HAIR—Lockyer's Sulphur Hair Restorer is the quickest, best, easiest and cheapest. Large Bottles, £1.6d. Extrafine.—Adv't.

VOLUNTEER GOSSIP.

Communications intended for this column should be delivered at the office not later than 4 p.m. on Thursdays.

The Government have not yet made up their minds as to how they shall distribute the £100,000 which has been generously allowed the Volunteers from the imperial exchequer. The task of the Secretary of State for War has been rendered all the more difficult from the action of the late Lord Mayor, whose fund has been devoted simply to the equipment of metropolitan Volunteers. Probably, when the facts are made public, about 20s. per head will be the amount spent for the purposes of such equipment. If so, there would still be a balance in hand, and one wonders what has become of it. The grant of £100,000 to the Treasury, which is to be supplemented by £50,000 from the War Office, will yet be to be apportioned. This raises a very delicate question. Will it be distributed among corps which have already accepted the late Lord Mayor's bounty, or confined only to those who have not? To be a national grant, it should be applied without distinction to all existing battalions.

But assuming this were so, fully another £100,000 would be required in order to enable all Volunteer regiments to comply with the terms of Lord Walsley's celebrated order of July, 1889. True, the Government may ignore the action of Sir James Whitehead altogether, but if they do so they would be placing metropolitan Volunteers in an altogether false position. It is to be regretted that they gave a cordial support to voluntary that they were a good deal more complicated by an

question somewhat more complicated by an evening at the last moment they were prepared to carry out the views of the House as expressed during the debate on Sir E. Hamley's resolution. Only a few weeks will elapse before the annual inspections commence; so that no time should be lost, in order that inspecting officers should be able to report that the conditions of the July order have been complied with.

Provincial papers are altogether opposed to the theory of Mr. Goschen, that with an increased grant, increased efficiency should be required. A northern journal is particularly outspoken on this question, for it says: "We do not see what greater efficiency can be required from rank and file. Certainly, in the infantry the number of points obtained at target practice cannot be increased, as the present requirement is somewhat too high; neither can the number of drills be conveniently increased. Any suggestion to revive the conditions of the Defence Act may be dismissed as impracticable."

Probably, if any more stringent regulations are imposed, the result will be a considerable reduction in the numerical strength of the force. I am not one of those who would regard such falling off in mere numbers as a sign of decay. On the other hand, there is little room to doubt that as the force is at present constituted it is over-weighted by men who are incompetent by age and infirmity to render good service to the State. It is all very well to say we have 250,000 Volunteers. A quarter of a million of men look very nice indeed on paper. But put them all in a sieve and sort them out, and, as I have contended over and over again, 33 1/3 per cent. at the very least would prove of little or no use to us on the day when the danger flag was flying. What we want is an efficient force, and if any new conditions are imposed, I shall give my vote in favour of compact and serviceable battalions in place of cumbersome and unwieldy ones.

The Volunteer movement appears to be spreading in India, in spite of the opposition which has been encountered from various quarters. The Duke of Connaught, when in military command of the Bombay Presidency, gave it every encouragement, and one of the results has been that a number of enthusiastic Bengalis have petitioned the Government to allow them to exercise the same privilege as their fellow-subjects in Bombay. In the case of the latter Presidency, only three conditions are imposed—that the men should sufficiently understand the English language, should adopt the uniform of the corps, and be willing to share its duties. Lord Lansdowne has to decide how far the present movement shall go, for if he grants the Bengali his petition, it will be almost impossible to refuse a similar concession to the Punjabis, Madras, or Mahrattas.

There is at present very little to report in the way of the shooting operations of the week, as the only City corps who have practised are the London Rifle Brigade and the 3rd London Rifles, and in neither instance has anything above an average score been made. I am glad, however, that the Post Office corps had a good muster last week at Wimbledon, and that they underwent a thoroughly practical drill. We want a little more of this kind of thing and a little less fancy shooting in the metropolitan district.

By the way, I regret to announce that the name of a good old pressman, Mr. Henry Thompson, who for many years attended the Wimbledon and Shoebridge meetings, must be struck off the future muster rolls. At the ripe age of 85 he has joined the majority. The recollection of the great services he rendered the Volunteer force in its earliest days will ever be remembered by those who took an active part in its formation, and who cannot but still retain in their minds a kindly feeling towards the old veteran who, with "years and honours crowned," is now at rest.

ELMAZ

VOLUNTEER REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

2ND LONDON.—Drills: At drill hall, Monday, 8 a.m., left half battalion on duty; Tuesday, 8 a.m., right half battalion on duty; Friday, 8 a.m., recruits only. School of arms, Tuesday, 8 p.m. Annual brigade drill, Saturday, May, 3rd; master at foot of the Duke of York's Column, St. James's Park, at 5.45 p.m.; marching orders, 6 p.m.; review, 7 p.m.; dress and place, 7.30 p.m.; Classifying and practice Monday on parade.

SND LONDON.—Company and recruit drill, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, at 8 p.m. Class-drill, 8.30 p.m. Physical drill class, 8.30 p.m. The range will be open on Saturday, 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

3RD LONDON.—The range at Catterham is engaged on May 10th by the Surrey corps. Members are requested to return their values and attendants to Headquarters at once.

SND LONDON.—Company and recruit drill, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Signalling class, 8 p.m. Physical drill class, 8.30 p.m. The range at Catterham is engaged on May 10th by the Surrey corps.

3RD MIDDLESEX.—The range at Catterham is engaged on May 10th by the Surrey corps. Members are requested to return their values and attendants to Headquarters at once.

4TH MIDDLESEX.—Monday, sergeant-major's drill, Wellington Barracks, at 8 p.m. Wednesday, 2nd and 1st class, 8 p.m.; 2nd class, 8.30 p.m.; and at Headquarters Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8 p.m.

5TH MIDDLESEX.—Monday, sergeant-major's drill, Wellington Barracks, at 8 p.m. Wednesday, 2nd and 1st class, 8 p.m.; 2nd class, 8.30 p.m.; and at Headquarters Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8 p.m.

6TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

7TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

8TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

9TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

10TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

11TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

12TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

13TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

14TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

15TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

16TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

17TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

18TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

19TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

20TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

21ST MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

22ND MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

23RD MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

24TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

25TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

26TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

27TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

28TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

29TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

30TH MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

31ST MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

32ND MIDDLESEX.—Tuesday and Friday, recruit drill, 8.30 p.m.

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PRIMROSE DAY.

GREAT MEETING IN COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.
Speech by Mr. Balfour.

On Saturday the usual Primrose Day meeting of the Grand Habitation of the League was held in Covent Garden Theatre, under the presidency of Earl Amherst, the proceedings being characterised by the utmost enthusiasm. Some idea of the interest taken in the meeting may be gathered from the fact that the vast opera-house was crowded from floor to ceiling almost an hour before the time announced for the commencement of the proceedings. The large assembly was provided with yellow programmes, and the effect of this in itself was most pictorial. In addition, however, the stage was prettily decorated. The chairman's table was surrounded with primrose wreaths, the largest of which had the words "Peace with honour" skillfully worked in with green foliage. Across the proscenium was hung the motto, "Imperium et Libertas," and down the sides were draped two huge Union Jacks. The banners of the various habitations were displayed in the auditorium, that of the Beaconsfield Habitation being suspended immediately under the gallery. The first tier of boxes was tastefully decorated with primroses and yellow silk ribbon, a lavish display being made upon those set apart for the more distinguished members of the audience. The London Military Band were literally embedded in ferns and evergreens at the back of the stage from which position they played appropriate musical selections during the interval prior to Earl Amherst taking the chair. Mr. Dan Godfrey, conducted the performers, who first played a piece of his own arrangement, a grand patriotic march, "United we Stand." Various national melodies were introduced into the composition, including "Hearts of Oak," "The Men of Harlech," and "Rule Britannia." The rendering of this was warmly applauded by the great gathering of dames and knights. While the band continued to entertain those who had already arrived with such selections as "The Good Subjects of Old England," by the Countess of Eilenberg, &c., those who were to support the speakers on the stage commenced to arrive. Colonel Mangles was one of the first to appear; then came Sir E. Burke, M.P., Sir A. K. Rollit, M.P., Sir A. Borthwick, M.P. (who was at once recognised and cheered), Sir W. T. Marriott, M.P., and Sir G. Baden-Powell. Immediately Mr. Balfour appeared the whole audience rose and cheered heartily, waving hats and handkerchiefs, programmes, and umbrellas. Then someone in the gallery called for "Three cheers for the Marquis of Salisbury," which was answered with the utmost enthusiasm. By this time a number of ladies had been provided with seats on the right of the chair, and the proceedings commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, the first two verses being taken as a solo by Madame Valleria, who was warmly cheered. Mr. Balfour stepped forward and shook her by the hand.

In the boxes or on the stage were Lord A. Gordon Lennox, Hon. John de Grey, Colonel Hon. W. Le Poer Trench, Baron James, Hon. Mrs. Halliburton Campbell, Baroness Holles, Colonel Henderson, Earl of Limerick, Dowager Lady Westbury, Dowager Lady Kynge, Earl of Yarborough, Countess Brownlow, Lady Yarborough, Hon. Mrs. Jervis, Hon. Mary Henniker, Lord Henniker, Lady Hardman, Countess of Lathom, Lady Knightley, Lady Topham, Lady Westbury, Lady Kynge, Lady Mary Howard, Hon. Mrs. Mills, Viscount Curzon, Lady Denison, Hon. Lady Campbell of Blythwood, Lady Ellis, Lady Caroline Pratt, Dowager Lady Aylesford, Count R. Lutwitz, General Coupland Crawford, Lord Hardman, and the Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

The League's Miraculous Growth. Earl Amherst, on taking the chair, expressed regret at the absence of Lord Salisbury from a cause which was well-known, and expressed a fervent hope that the noble marquis would soon be restored to health to perform the duties of Prime Minister. He more regretted his absence because there was a very good record of work done to show for the past year. The numbers of the Primrose League no amounted to a total of 910,832. He mentioned that 3,500 returns had come in within the previous twenty-four hours, which gave an increase of 100,000. That increase, satisfactory as it was, was not quite equal to that of the earlier years of the Primrose League, when the numbers advanced in a most miraculous manner; but their progress was solid and was a subject for congratulation. He believed no political organisation ever got together a similar number in this country; yet without a system of organisation all that mass of effort would be thrown away. He wished to impress upon those present the need of the formation of county councils throughout the United Kingdom as soon as may be; and, of course, these county councils must be the outcome of divisional councils. There was an immense amount of business which could better be carried on by local centres rather than in London. (Hear, hear.) This organisation would have to be the outcome of the habitations themselves. The organisations, however, would only be the engines without the steam of individual effort, for which they relied upon every one present. (Cheers.) There was need for earnest work, the political trials through which they were passing being very great. He hoped the outcome of it all would be the formation of a great moderate national party—(loud cheers)—which should hold the confidence and sway the destinies of this country for many a long year. (Renewed cheers.) Mr. Mocatta (R.C. Walton) then returned the champion banner to Earl Amherst (representing the Grand Master, Lord Salisbury), the band playing the while "See the conquering hero comes." The Dowager Duchess of Marlborough, Dame President of the Ladies' Executive Council, then handed it to the representative of the branch at Gilsland, Northumbria, for efficiency of organisation. The Duchess of Marlborough said it was highly pleasing to her to have lived to witness the marvellous success of the league. The chairman then called upon Mr. Balfour, who was received with another prolonged ovation. The audience having almost tired themselves with cheering, the Chief Secretary proceeded to address the meeting.

Ridicule, Calumny, and Lying.

Mr. Balfour said if he was not the speaker originally destined to take part in those proceedings he could not but rejoice, so far as he was concerned, that it had been his lot to be present at what was by far the greatest meeting of that great society—(cheers)—and that he had been his good fortune to witness the interesting ceremony which had just taken place. It did not need the figures of which had been read to convince any one of the prosperous condition of the Primrose League. That meeting itself was an adequate proof of prosperity, if other proofs were wanting. (Hear, hear.) Other proofs were not wanting. They had been flattered by imitation. (Laughter and cheers.) He was told that the imitation was made with but relatively inadequate success—(hear, hear)—but it was none the less a compliment to their efficiency that that imitation should have been a temptation. That was even more conclusive proof of the estimation in which their opponents held them. In the early stages of the league's career they tried ridicule. Ridicule had proved utterly ineffectual, and then for ridicule they substituted calumny, and the calumny had proved even less ineffectual than the ridicule. They might depend upon it that when their opponents began to invent these outrages and false accusations against them; when they tried to make out that they were attempting to follow haltingly and feebly in the pathway of crime which they so cheerfully trod—(loud cheers)—they showed by that attempt how much they feared the united and disciplined action of that great league. (Renewed cheers.) The chairman had reminded them

that the motto of the league was "Empire and Liberty." The trustee for the moment of this great empire was the Government, which had the confidence of the House of Commons. He asked how the Unionist Government in power had fulfilled the great trust of maintaining, and it might be of increasing, the power and prosperity of the empire committed to their charge. Political calumny itself had spared certain great departments of the administration. None, he thought, were found to deny that the leader of the House of Commons had performed his delicate and difficult functions with tact, with firmness, with courage, and in a conciliatory spirit admirably qualified to maintain the great traditions of the past.

Firm Foreign Policy.

Even the most carping critic of the Unionist administration was constrained by force of patent and undeniable facts to admit that in the region of finance and of foreign policy the Government had shown themselves equal to the great task imposed upon them. The financial triumphs of Mr. Goschen included immense contributions to the local exchequer, an immense reduction of the public debt, and a great deduction in the burdens of taxation. The foreign policy of Lord Salisbury had been distinguished by a firm and even tenor at once removed from rashness on the one side and pusillanimity on the other, which had involved us in no unnecessary war, and when we got involved in war had not humiliated the English conscience throughout the world by retreating ignominiously in the face of the enemy. (Cheers.) He also spoke of the work done by Mr. Ritchie in the reform of local government, and of the great improvements made in the Army and Navy by Mr. Stanhope and Lord George Hamilton, who had accomplished in three or four years improvements which exceeded in magnitude and far-reaching importance anything ever done by ministers in their position, and which kept up the efficiency of the Army and Navy at the point that every true patriot desired. They had also introduced an organisation into the services that would long bear fruit. He next referred to the Home Department, and the difficult task the Home Secretary had to perform in the exercise of the prerogative of mercy. The prerogative of mercy administered by the Home Secretary was a very adequate and convenient machinery for getting over those anomalies in the administration of the criminal law which must from time to time occur; and he believed it had worked well, but it was impossible it should work well in the kind of pressure that was put upon it now being put upon it. The Home Secretary was asked to be the final court of appeal in criminal matters, and having made him so to the public refused him the protection given to other courts, and put pressure upon him that if exercised upon any other court would be contempt of court, and would be punished.

Mr. Matthews and Condemned Criminals.

In the case of the recent Crewe murder, 2,000 telegrams and 1,000 letters were addressed to the final judge in that criminal appeal, and as well as petitions signed by 150,000 persons; and by our representative system, as a member of a Conservative government, other pressure was put upon him. So far as he was the judge in a criminal case he ought to be absolutely free from pressure of that kind. (Cheers.) He rejoiced that we had at the Home Department a man who was not only specially qualified by his great position as a criminal lawyer, but was also qualified by his anxious, earnest, and over-mastering sense of public duty in the interests of justice. Every man who knew Mr. Matthews knew that no greater suffering could be inflicted upon him than to place in his hands the alternative of inflicting or removing the penalty of death. No man felt more cruelly the trial thus imposed upon him than the present Home Secretary. He had, perhaps, traversed outside the ordinary range of subjects to be discussed at public meetings, but he thought it his duty to make that statement. (Cheers.) Turning now from Imperium to Liberty, he came to the party which was fighting not merely the battle of empire, but the battle of liberty—the Irish administration. (Loud cheers.) In Ireland, he was glad to say, individual liberty was now in a very different position from what it had been. The chief topics of interest now as far as he could make out were Tipperary—(laughter)—and the Ponsonby estates. The "plan of campaign" was a very ingenious device, which was told was the outcome of the inventive brain of Mr. W. O'Brien, which consisted in fraudulently keeping back the rents which should be paid to the landlord, and in using the money to fight the landlord, so as to get out of him the small shreds of his property which still remained. They generally chose a landlord who could less bear being deprived of his income than anybody else. It was not supposed that Mr. Ponsonby was a bad landlord. Because Mr. Smith Barry came to the assistance of one who was in trouble, his tenants, who were content, were forced by this Nationalist organisation to give up their farms and abandon all the property they had, and to leave their homes and take refuge in this singular structure called New Tipperary.

The Irish Imagination.

Mr. W. O'Brien spoke at the banquet there, and on such occasions the ardour of his imagination entirely ran away with him. He always read that gentleman's speeches on such occasions with great pleasure. When Mr. O'Brien was in the full swing of his oratory there was a splendid indifference to facts. (Loud laughter and cheers.) He had said that hundreds of the best women and children on the Ponsonby estate were imprisoned. Now he (Mr. Balfour) sent over to Ireland to ascertain the facts, and found that they were charged with being drunk, disorderly, and drunk on licensed premises after hours. (Laughter.) Now, at New Tipperary the resident magistrate, Colonel Caddle, a most estimable man, was the object of attack. He was said to have invented a new system of intimidation of the press. He found that "the press" termed him an "insufferable cad," "as insolent a puppy though matured, and as bloodthirsty a brute as ever spilt innocent blood." He (Mr. Balfour) thought that Mr. O'Brien must really have been thinking of him. (Loud laughter.) He thought Mr. O'Brien's views about crime were about as eccentric as those concerning the liberties of the press, for he had termed the Tipperary campaign "a gallant affair," "a crimeless contest." Since the contest commenced there had been in the course of six months one bad case of firing into a house, two serious riots accompanied by loss of life and serious injury, three cases in which property had been maliciously burned, and seven cases in which explosives had been used for intimidation. This contest was as crimeless as most of those in Ireland. Another fact worth mentioning was that Mr. J. O'Connor, on rising to speak at Tipperary, was greeted with "cheers for 1867"—the Fenian rising.

Appeal to the Primrose League.

This meant that there were associated with the English Home Rule dupes, and the Irish so-called constitutionalists, another group who looked back to different ideals and forward to different ends. (Loud cheers.) The object of the agitation had, in the words of the Parnell Commission, was to impower and drive out the landlords. These agitators supported the "plan of campaign" because if they allowed the land question to be settled their living would be gone. (Applause.) He looked forward with interest to the way in which they would treat his bill, which contained the largest proposals that had ever been made to Irish tenants. They at Westminster could do little without the sympathy and support of the English people. That support would be given if the people knew all the facts, and it was for those present to carry out that great work, without which Parliamentary work was useless. A meeting like that he was addressing was the best proof that success would attend their efforts

and he looked to the future with absolute confidence and assurance. (Prolonged cheers, during which the right hon. gentleman resumed his seat, having spoken exactly an hour.)

The Earl of Mount Edgcumbe moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Balfour for his address. He said his speech, which would be read by thousands the next day, was one which must have excited their patriotic instincts and which would long live in their memories. (Cheers.) Their gratitude was due to him, however, in a far higher degree for the public services he had rendered as a member of her Majesty's Government. (Renewed cheers.)

Two Foreign Secretaries.

Lord Salisbury had the foreign affairs to control, and in that position only one man had ever been his equal, and that was the deceased earl whose memory was connected with the birth of their league. (Applause.) It was at home and not abroad that their national unity and strength were exposed to attack, and at that point the post of honour had been assigned to Mr. A. Balfour. He was quite sure those present would answer to the appeal the Chief Secretary had made, and take part in the fight. (Cheers.)

Sir W. Marriott, M.P. (Judge Advocate-general), seconded the resolution, remarking that Mr. Balfour was so accustomed to the most fulsome compliments in the House of Commons—(laughter)—that anything he might say would pall. With the Irish party silence would be contempt, blessings would be curses and praise would be blame. The Irish party did not treat Mr. Balfour to silence or to blessings, or to praise, and therefore they knew how to value him. He wished to draw their attention to their league and some circumstances connected with it. Mr. Gladstone's party came into office in 1880 as the "peace at any price party," and exactly what Lord Beaconsfield predicted took place. There was a war in 1880, a war in 1881, a war in 1882, another in 1883, in 1884, and in 1885. There was the disastrous surrender in the Transvaal, the miserable handling over of the Sudan to the rebels, the fiasco at Candahar, &c.

Mr. Gladstone's Vacillation.

Then, to crown all, they would remember the name which came from the, at that time, all-powerful Chancellor Prince Bismarck, in which he ridiculed the vacillating policy of Mr. Gladstone, and announced that Germany had annexed part of New Britain, a portion of South Africa, and New Guinea. It was events of this character which brought thousands together under the banner of the Primrose League. (Cheers.) Another event which tended to distract the people and swell their ranks, was the dynamite explosion in the House of Commons. It was a curious fact that the seat in the House which was shattered to atoms was that occupied by the man who was now in league with those who were in league with the party of physical force. It appealed to those present, when they returned to their homes scattered throughout the country, to tell the people how matters really stood. They were to fight the enemy of ignorance with the weapon of truth, and in the end they would surely prevail. The resolution was then put by the chairman, and carried by acclamation.

Confidence in the Government.

Mr. Balfour, rising to respond, was again cheered. The echo, the whole audience rising from their seats. He said: Ladies and gentlemen, just one word, merely to thank you for the manner in which you have received the resolution which has just been proposed and seconded, and to say that the reception which you have been good enough to give me to-day is in itself an adequate proof of the cordial feeling with which you regard the Government of which I am a member. (Applause.)

The Earl of Radnor then proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman for his admirable conduct of the proceedings. This was seconded by Sir A. Borthwick, M.P., and carried amid cheers. The chairman having replied, the meeting terminated with the singing of "Rule Britannia."

THE PONSONBY EVICTIONS.

The evictions on the Ponsonby estate were proceeded on Saturday, and thirteen families were evicted. At all the houses visited by the sheriff the doors were barred and the windows studded with withernethorn bushes. Entrance was in all cases effected through the windows, the bushes being cut away with hatchets. Mrs. Leech, an English lady, who was within one of the houses when the evicting party entered, complained that an emergency man threatened to strike her with a hatchet. On the thatched roof of one of the evicted houses was the inscription "We'll have our own again when Smith Barry is a thing of the past." The sheriff and his party afterwards returned to Youghal. At Youghal the shutters of a number of shops occupied by Nationalists were closed, and a black flag was hoisted as a mark of respect for the evicted families. Otherwise there has been no demonstration against the proceedings.

SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH ON THE BUDGET.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach on Saturday attended a Primrose League dinner at Bristol, and, replying to the toast of the Government, the right hon. gentleman said he looked forward to the passing of the Tithe Bill with sanguine hope. Referring to the Irish Land Bill, he said it would strengthen the position of those resident landlords in Ireland who liked to remain there, thus depriving the Irish agitator of a considerable portion of his strength, because it was not until Mr. Parnell and other friends added the suggestion of robbery of land from landlords to their policy of Home Rule that that policy took real hold of the Irish tenant. As to the Budget, he repudiated the suggestion that it was a dissolution Budget, and said he could hardly conceive any one who might not find some satisfaction in the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Test-tellers ought to be thankful for the reduction of duty on tea; and the brewer and publican might surely not feel dissatisfied at the important recognition of the principle of compensation. He thought he might foretell that from the progress made in these matters that the Government were likely to remain in office.

THE IRISH IMAGINATION.

Mr. W. O'Brien spoke at the banquet there, and on such occasions the ardour of his imagination entirely ran away with him. He always read that gentleman's speeches on such occasions with great pleasure. When Mr. O'Brien was in the full swing of his oratory there was a splendid indifference to facts. (Loud laughter and cheers.) He had said that hundreds of the best women and children on the Ponsonby estate were imprisoned. Now he (Mr. Balfour) sent over to Ireland to ascertain the facts, and found that they were charged with being drunk, disorderly, and drunk on licensed premises after hours. (Laughter.) Now, at New Tipperary the resident magistrate, Colonel Caddle, a most estimable man, was the object of attack. He was said to have invented a new system of intimidation of the press. He found that "the press" termed him an "insufferable cad," "as insolent a puppy though matured, and as bloodthirsty a brute as ever spilt innocent blood." He (Mr. Balfour) thought that Mr. O'Brien must really have been thinking of him. (Loud laughter.) He thought Mr. O'Brien's views about crime were about as eccentric as those concerning the liberties of the press, for he had termed the Tipperary campaign "a gallant affair," "a crimeless contest." Since the contest commenced there had been in the course of six months one bad case of firing into a house, two serious riots accompanied by loss of life and serious injury, three cases in which property had been maliciously burned, and seven cases in which explosives had been used for intimidation. This contest was as crimeless as most of those in Ireland. Another fact worth mentioning was that Mr. J. O'Connor, on rising to speak at Tipperary, was greeted with "cheers for 1867"—the Fenian rising.

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THE EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Important Judgment.

The Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Mathew had before them on Saturday the case of Amos v. Duffy. It was an appeal from the Southwark County Court in a case under the Employers' Liability Act, in which verdict and judgment were given for the plaintiff, with £11 damages, and the defendant now moved a set aside the judgment. The plaintiff, a sawyer, was injured in consequence of a nut fixing a guard to the saw being defective, and he had gone on working after he had called the attention of the overseer to the fact. Their lordships felt themselves bound by a decision of the Court of Appeal, the Master of the Rolls dissenting, and allowed the appeal. They said, however, the decision in question practically repealed the Employers' Liability Act in regard to the remedy of the workman, even where there was negligence on the part of his employer, if he went on working. The appeal was allowed, but unconditional leave to appeal was given.

ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

The annual meeting in connection with the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, was held on Saturday afternoon at Grosvenor House, Upper Grosvenor-street. The Duke of Westminster, who presided, said the objects of the Royal Normal College were to train the blind, intellectually, morally, and physically, and to enable them not only not to be a burden to the State, but to be put in a position to earn their own living. The Bishop of London, in moving the adoption of the report, said it was of peculiar interest at the present moment, because the college had now been established a sufficient length of time to thoroughly test its work. The institution was rising in public estimation, and those who had charge of it were of opinion that something should be done to put it on a more solid and permanent footing than hitherto. Mr. Mundella, M.P., in seconding the motion, said he had visited and examined nearly all the blind schools in Europe, and he declared that there was none which ranked higher than the Royal Normal College, or that was doing such a good and useful work. The Government had promised that they would pass a measure—which he hoped would become law this session—to assist the education of the blind by making certain grants, which were not intended to relieve the public of their subscriptions, but rather to elicit public help in every locality. Canon Barker, in supporting the motion, said that some of those who left the institution were able to maintain themselves in comfort. Some of the former students were now earning £200 per annum. The report was adopted. Sir Lyon Playfair M.P., moved that the constitution of the bye-laws be adopted. Mr. G. A. Western seconded the motion, which was carried.

WRESTLING WITH A GENERAL.

At Maidenhead on Saturday a bricklayer named Mullins was charged with having on the previous day assaulted General A. C. Phillips at his residence. The defendant went to the general's house and offered a plant for sale. He was told that it was not required, and ordered off the premises. Mullins did not appear to like this, and put the plant down and placed himself in a fighting attitude towards the general, who came to see what was the matter. Seeing the defendant place his feet in a certain position, and having himself been an amateur wrestler in his younger days, General Phillips seized him and threw him to the ground. Mullins was sent to gaol for fourteen days.

CAPTURE OF A NOTORIOUS THIEF.

At the London County Sessions on Saturday, before Mr. Loveland, Q.C., Thomas Wilson, 22, labourer, a smartly-dressed young man, was indicted for attempting to steal a handkerchief from a person whose name is unknown. Detective-sergeant Record saw the prisoner with two other men at the corner of Vere-street, Oxford-street, on the 3rd inst. He noticed one of the men put his hand into a lady's pocket. He followed them down Oxford-street, and saw them pushing against several ladies. At the corner of Bird-street the prisoner was seen to put his hand into a lady's pocket, and take out a handkerchief. Finding that they were watched, they ran down a mews, where the prisoner was captured. The other men escaped. The prisoner withdrew his plea, and now pleaded guilty. Sergeant Morgan, of the D Division, and the prisoner had been sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment for burglary, and on the 9th inst. he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment at Marlborough-street Police Court as a rogue and vagabond. Mr. Loveland now sentenced him to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.

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mend itself to those members of the Irish party and their English allies as are prepared to sacrifice indefinitely the welfare of the Irish peasantry in order to accomplish their own political object. We will do both the Irish and English Separatists the justice to say that we do not believe they are all as bad as that. Consequently, Mr. PARKER'S scheme is likely to receive but very qualified support even from his own political friends.

JUDICIAL SENTENCES.—Lord HERSCHEL unquestionably did well in bringing before the House of Lords on Monday the difficult question of unequal judicial sentences in criminal cases. As to the necessity of inquiry by a royal commission, that is a different matter. Considering the vast mass of undeniable evidence which is already before the public from one source or another, it is not easy to see what precise good a royal commission could do. Nevertheless, there is always need of evidence and of inquiry, in order to see what can be done to ensure the equal dispensation of justice in our criminal courts to all offenders alike. The difficulties, however, which beset any attempt to lay down rules for equalising sentences are enormous. Is it not, one may well ask, essentially impossible to equalise sentences by rule? It is not too much to say that criminal cases never resemble each other so closely in all their circumstances that it is possible to make any typical case a guide for dealing with the infinite variations of culpability which are the daily experience of criminal courts. Besides, the very people who have most closely studied the subject of punishment in its practical bearing on the lives and characters of those who incur it are quite at sixes and sevens as to the principles which ought to regulate its infliction. Some are for long sentences; some for short. Some would attach greater weight than others to the fact of previous conviction; while some would even take no notice of previous conviction at all. So far as we can see, it seems to be impossible to lay down any rule. The only possible principle which can be admitted with a view to obtaining something like uniformity is that of the wise exercise of the discretion of the judge. That principle seems to have been recognised in the debate on Monday. Only the judge can know, in so far as they can be known at all, the mitigating or aggravating circumstances of each particular case which comes before him. Fortunately, the bench can be trusted to exercise that tremendous power with intelligence and impartiality. But, in order that judges may be able to give proper effect to their views of the moral aspect of particular cases, it is absolutely necessary that the scale of judicial punishments should be most carefully graduated, so that a judge should not, as he now too often is, be compelled to pass sentences which he knows are really inadequate to the requirements of cases before him.

EIGHT HOURS.—Eight hours' work a day is, beyond all doubt, a fine phrase. If no man ever worked more he would not be overworked, and if no man ever worked less he would certainly have sufficient employment to keep him out of that mischief which is proverbially said to be found for idle hands to do. Eight hours a day seems, therefore, an excellent aspiration for the working man. So, indeed, it would be, were it not for one or two trifling drawbacks, such as are apt to be found in this imperfect world, interfering with the practical success of the most beautiful theoretical schemes. In the first place, what right have the advocates of the eight hours' scheme to limit by law the natural and inalienable right of every able-bodied man to work as long as he likes? That protection should be given to women and children is absolutely necessary and right, but to tell a full-grown man that he must not sell his strength or his skill in the labour market on whatever terms he pleases, is nothing short of the grossest tyranny. There is, however, but little chance of any such tyranny being inflicted by Act of Parliament upon the working men of this country at present. Before that becomes possible there will have to be a general agreement in all civilised countries to do the same. Otherwise, we should find that the compulsory eight hours' day was fatal, in these times of commercial competition, to our national industries. It is obvious that a nation in which the employers of labour can only get eight hours' work out of their employees are handicapped out of the race for commercial success altogether. Englishmen will never submit to a scheme which means ruin to capital, and, in consequence, ruin to labour also. The organisers of the forthcoming demonstrations at home and abroad in favour of the eight hours' day appear to think that there is some immediate prospect of a general international agreement on the subject. We confess that we can see no reason for that sanguine anticipation, and until such agreement becomes an accomplished fact it will never do for British industry to go in for commercial disarmament while other nations are still armed. And even then there is the question of the natural liberty of the worker to work as long as he likes. Englishmen are not favourable to curtailment of their personal liberties.

A MUSIC HALL SINGER'S DIVORCE. In the Divorce Division on Thursday, Mr. Justice Butt had before him the case of Hunter v. Hunter and Boyd. There was no defence. The petitioner, Mr. Walter Hunter, a music hall singer, married the respondent on the 10th August, 1884, at the registry office, St. Pancras. They afterwards lived together in Colebrooke-row, Islington. The respondent was stated to have been of drunken habits, and in order to try and cure her the petitioner sent her to reside at some apartments at Preston. There she made the acquaintance of the respondent, a traveller to an Edinburgh firm of publishers, and with him she misconducted herself. She was seen by the landlady to leave Mr. Boyd's room at seven o'clock in the morning, and when charged with adultery she did not deny it. The landlady afterwards communicated with the petitioner.—A decree nisi, with costs, was granted.

THE WEEK'S DIVORCE CASES.

A SINGULAR CASE.

In the Divorce Division, before Mr. Justice Butt, the case of D'Etegoyen v. D'Etegoyen came on for hearing. This was a petition presented by the wife praying for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground of the bigamy and desertion of her husband. Mr. Middleton appeared for the petitioner; the respondent was not represented by counsel. From the statement of the learned counsel it appeared that the parties were married on the 10th of September, 1878, at Compton, in the province of Quebec. At that time the respondent was a farmer at Stanstead, in Canada. The parties after that came to England and took up their residence at Richmond and Inverness-terrace. The respondent commenced a suit in that court against the petitioner, but there was not the slightest foundation for the allegations he made against the petitioner. Some questions were raised as to the question of domicile, but the learned judge pronounced for an English domicile, and the case was ordered to proceed. The next step, however, was that an application was made to the court for the dismissal of the petition, but that was opposed, as there was an objection to pay the costs.—Mr. Justice Butt: Well, why did not the wife proceed with the suit?—Mr. Middleton: Because, my lord, her husband left her, and went to Chicago, where he obtained a decree of divorce against her on the ground of her deserting him, and on the 10th of July, 1888, he went through a form of marriage with a young woman named O'Leary, at Derby, in the State of Vermont. On learning that his wife filed the present petition.—Mr. Justice Butt: Had the court in Chicago any jurisdiction to dissolve the first marriage?—Mr. Middleton said he was of opinion the court had no such jurisdiction.—Mr. Justice Butt thought it would be best for the present suit to proceed without reference to the proceedings at Chicago. It might turn out that there was no American domicile, but that was not the question now, as the matter before him would proceed as if there were no evidence from Chicago.—Mrs. Sarah Agnes D'Etegoyen said she was married to the respondent at Compton, in Quebec, on September 10th, 1878. There were two children. She resided with the respondent some time at his farm, which was called Stanstead, at Compton. In 1882 she and the respondent came to this country. The respondent left her in this country in 1885, and since that he had not contributed in any way to her support. The respondent took proceedings against her in 1887, but there was not the slightest foundation for the allegations he then made against her.—Depositions were then put in proving the marriage of the respondent with Catherine O'Leary at Chicago, and their cohabitation afterwards as man and wife.—His lordship granted a decree nisi, with costs, and gave the petitioner the custody of the children.

PRESENTING A REVOLVER AT A WIFE.

In the case of Peck v. Peck, the petition was presented by the wife praying for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground of the misconduct of her husband. Mr. Middleton appeared for the petitioner; but the respondent was not represented by counsel.—Mrs. Adelina Maud Peck said she was married to the respondent, who was an auctioneer and surveyor, on the 24th of July, 1876, and they afterwards lived in Gower-street. There were two children of the marriage. They lived happily until the year 1886. About that time the conduct of the respondent altogether changed. He used to stay out late, and on some occasions he would not return home all night. He frequently used insulting expressions towards her in the presence of third persons. On the 7th of July, 1889, the respondent returned home, and then, in the presence of her brother, he pulled her out of the chair in which she was sitting and presented a revolver at her. He at the same time threatened her, and said it would have been better had he shot her long ago. He was very violent. Her brother snatched the pistol from the respondent, but he recovered the weapon and ran out of the house. She was so alarmed at the conduct of the respondent that her friends remained with her all that night, and the next morning she left the house with her children. She could not say whether the revolver was loaded. She believed the respondent had written to her solicitor stating that he should not waste money by defending the suit.—Arthur Hughes, brother of the petitioner, said he was present on the occasion when the respondent threatened the petitioner with the revolver. He took the pistol from him, but the respondent got it back and rushed out of the house. He could not say whether the pistol was loaded. The petitioner was seriously alarmed at the respondent's conduct. He had seen the respondent take a strange woman into his house in Gower-street.—A detective agent said that on August 1st he watched the respondent. He had previously seen him selling at the auction mart in the City. His name was on the desk at which he was sitting. He, after that, on one occasion saw him take a female into his house in Gower-street. He watched the house from one in the morning until four, but no person left it.—Mindha Maitland said she formerly kept a tobacconist's shop in Barbican. She knew Mr. Peck. She had been with him to the Covent Garden Hotel and remained there all night. It was the Derby night of the year 1888. In the month of August afterwards she went to his house in Gower-street, and remained there with him all night. She had frequently been to the Covent Garden Hotel with the respondent.—His lordship granted a decree nisi, with costs, and gave the petitioner the custody of the children.

ACTION AGAINST A SOLICITOR.

The case of Yearsley v. Yearsley was one in which the petition was presented by the wife, praying for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground of the misconduct of her husband, a solicitor, at Plymouth. Mr. Arthur Powell appeared for the petitioner; the respondent was not represented by counsel.—Mrs. Miriam Yearsley said she was the petitioner, and was married to respondent on August 16th, 1887, at St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth. He was a solicitor, and practised in that town. They lived in Plymouth after the marriage. She found the respondent to be a man of intemperate habits. He used to go out and return home drunk, and then he would ill-use her. In the September following the marriage he came home drunk, treated her very badly, and nearly tore her dress off her back. She shortly after left home to go for a short time to her parents at Cardiff. The respondent met her at the station at Plymouth on her return, but when they arrived home he struck her with his fist in the face. He gave her a black eye on October 26th. He on that occasion struck her, and her ring caused the injury to her eye. A few days after that he struck her again, and then left her for eight days, and he was afterwards found at a house in Cambridge-lane, Plymouth, with a woman named Gray. It was, as near as she could say, the 3rd of October. On his return home he struck and ill-used her. He had also struck her at his office at Plymouth. She ultimately left him, and returned to her friends. In February, 1888, she obtained a situation as nursery governess to a family, and subsequently she went to France in that capacity. On her return to England in September, 1888, she went to Plymouth, and there found the respondent with the woman Gray. They were drinking port when she (petitioner) entered the respondent's office. On that occasion the respondent struck her in the presence of the woman Gray. The respondent promised to allow her £1 per week, but he had never done so. The last time she lived with the respondent was last October 20th, 1887.—Mr. Trevor Styles said he was a brewer, and he was now living at Newland-terrace, Kensington. In 1886 he was living at Plymouth. He knew the respondent and his wife. Shortly after respondent's marriage he (witness) met him. He told him that he had had a row with Mrs. Yearsley, and that he had given her a good hiding. After the marriage he concluded at the adjournment of the court for

Summerland-place, Plymouth, with a woman. The respondent was not sober man. In November, 1887, he met the respondent in Cheapside with the woman Gray. She, however, was not the woman he had seen the respondent with in Summerland-place. Yearsley then told him (witness) he was staying at an hotel, but that Gray was living at Chelsea, and that he went to see her every night.—Dinah Varney said she resided at Sydney-street, Plymouth. She knew Mr. Yearsley. In May, 1888, a woman came and took apartments in her (witness's) house. After that Mr. Yearsley came. The woman passed as Mrs. Yearsley. The parties lived in her house for about five weeks. She now knew that the woman's real name was Gray. She knew Yearsley went from her house to his place of business. She also knew he was a solicitor.—His lordship granted a decree nisi, with costs.

A BLIND MAN'S DIVORCE.

In the case of Dobbs v. Dobbs and Bilton, the petition was that of the husband, a blind man, praying for the dissolution of his marriage on the ground of the misconduct of the respondent with the co-respondent.—Mr. John Dobbs said he was the petitioner, and was by profession a pianoforte tuner. He resided at Tottenham. He was quite blind. He was married to the respondent on the 22nd of April, 1873, at St. John's Church, Hoxton, and he and the respondent lived together until 1884. The marriage was a very unhappy one. The respondent's mother and sister were continually at the house, and they frequently quarrelled. He objected to their coming to the house, but it was of no use. They continued their visits, notwithstanding his objection to their presence. He knew the respondent was keeping her mother and sister, and this he objected to, especially as they were always kicking up rows. In the year 1884 the respondent left him, and he did not know where she was living until last year. After he was informed that she was living at Enfield he instituted the present proceedings.—Mrs. Susan Buckmore said she went to Cromwell-terrace, Enfield, where the respondent carried on the business of a dressmaker. She became aware of her being there in consequence of seeing her advertisement in the newspaper. When she saw the respondent, who was advertised as Mrs. Bilton, she at once recognised her as Mrs. Dobbs.—William Lathom said he was a furniture dealer. He served the citation on the parties. He saw the respondent and co-respondent at Enfield in December last. When he read the citation to the respondent she said there was adultery on both sides.—Mr. Whitbread said he let the house in Cromwell-terrace to Mrs. Bilton. There was a Mr. Bilton, but he was not the petitioner.—His lordship was satisfied with the evidence. He granted a decree nisi, but he did not give costs against Bilton, as it had not been proved that he had the respondent to be a married woman.

KICKED OUT OF BED.

In the case of Kendle v. Kendle, the petition was presented by the wife praying for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground of the misconduct of her husband.—Mrs. Lilla Maria Kendle said she was married to the respondent, John Kendle, on the 2nd September, 1886, at the parish church at Guernsey. After the marriage she went to reside at the Clarendon Hotel, Brighton, of which the respondent was then the proprietor. She resided with the respondent until she left him in the autumn of last year. At times the respondent acted very badly towards her. He kicked her out of bed in the early part of last year. On one occasion he struck her in the face. That was in the autumn of the same year. In June he turned her out of the hotel. He came home on that occasion very tipsy about one in the morning, and ordered her to leave the place. She asked him the reason for such conduct, when he said she had been misconducting herself, which was totally and entirely false. She left the hotel as directed, and went to the house of a friend. The next day respondent sent for her to return home. She did so and forgave him the cruelty. When she arrived at the Clarendon she found a woman there who called herself Mrs. Maxwell Scott. She was sitting in petitioner's private room, and the respondent was present. Mrs. Scott was not in walking dress. She, after that, made inquiry about Mrs. Scott. On the 15th of August the respondent went to Brussels. He was very often away from the hotel all night. On one occasion she asked him if he had been to Mrs. Scott, who she had discovered lived at Hassocks Gate. She after that instituted the present proceedings. After that she got two letters from the respondent. In the first he asked her not to proceed with the suit on account of the scandal and disgrace it would occasion to her and the children. For himself he said he did not care. In the other he addressed her as his darling wife. He admitted he had been a brute and asked her to come back to him, and called her his "dear sweet loving Lilla." He further told her that telegrams would find him at Gresham House if addressed to "Septimus," and letters addressed to "Mr. Smith." The respondent was not at the hotel now.—An oil painting of the respondent was here handed in by Mr. Deane, who was counsel for the petitioner.—Constance Reed said she now lived at Burgess Hill. She was formerly book-keeper at the Clarendon Hotel, Brighton. She recollects Mrs. Kendle leaving the hotel last year. She went away in the middle of the night. She knew that Mr. Kendle on that occasion came home the worse for drink. She saw the respondent strike Mrs. Kendle. When Mrs. Scott was first brought into the hotel she stayed two nights. She was one of those nights in No. 14, which was Mr. Kendle's room. She was not an hotel guest, as she did not pay a bill.—Mrs. Mercier said last year a lady and gentleman came to her house at Keyner, Hassocks Gate. They gave the names of Captain and Mrs. Stanley. It would be about the middle of June. Mrs. Stanley left her house on the 15th of July. When Captain Stanley left he made her a present of his portrait. It was that which had been handed into court. She thought it a good likeness of him. He told her Mrs. Stanley had painted it. The letters that had been read in court were in Captain Stanley's handwriting. She knew Captain and Mrs. Stanley slept in her house.—His lordship granted a decree nisi, with costs.

Miss E. M. Hairs, the plaintiff in the recent action for breach of promise of marriage against Sir George Elliot, M.P., in which the jury disagreed, has instructed her solicitor to enter the case for a new trial.

M.P.'S AND THE IRISH EXHIBITION.

In the Queen's Bench Division on Thursday before Mr. Justice Mathew and a special jury the case of Collingridge and another v. Gladstone and others came on for hearing. This was an action brought by the proprietors of the City Press to recover from Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., Lord Arthur Hill, M.P., Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P., Mr. Ernest Hart, and Mr. John H. Rafferty a sum of £348 10s. for printing and stationery in connection with the Irish exhibition at Kensington. The defendants, who were sued as promoters and managers of the exhibition, denied liability, saying the work was not done and the goods were not supplied for them at their request. Mr. Finlay, Q.C., and Mr. Powell were counsel for the plaintiffs; Mr. Reid, Q.C., and Mr. Muir Mackenzie being for the defendants.—Mr. Powell, in opening the case for the plaintiffs, detailed the circumstances connected with the formation of the exhibition company, with the view of showing the active part taken in the matter from the first by the defendants, and said the company, which was incorporated and started with a capital of only £70, was now in liquidation with debts amounting to between £15,000 and £20,000, while the assets were nil. The defendants had been members of the executive council, and the learned counsel submitted, had so held themselves out as to render them personally liable by inducing the plaintiffs to do the work and supply the goods on their credit.—The evidence for the plaintiffs had not concluded at the adjournment of the court for

THE SEQUEL TO A DIVORCE CASE.

CASE.

At Dalston Police Court, before Mr. Haden Corser, General Henry Ronald Hippe M'Ivor again appeared as defendant in the case brought against him by Bertha Pamplin, a former nurse in his service, for the maintenance of the complainant's illegitimate child, of whom she alleged he was the father. Mr. C. V. Young again appeared for complainant, but defendant again produced his own case.—After the comedy, he said, that was enacted last week, when he found there was treachery in the camp, when they were using the blade of the assassin by extending the hand of friendship.—Mr. Corser: Never mind General M'Ivor: I ask you pardon, sir. But I shall have to ask you to grant a warrant or a subpoena to compel a most important witness to my case to attend the court. This is Mrs. Martin, in whose house I lodged at Howard-street, Strand, and she is at Brighton.—Mr. Corser: You may make your application later on.—Bertha Pamplin was called into the box for cross-examination by the defendant. He asked: You were nurse in the service of the late Mrs. M'Ivor during my absence in Australia? Yes.—Defendant: You know I never was at the house during my supposed absence?—Complainant: Yes.—The first you knew of me was when I wrote to you at your address close to Manchester? Yes.—According to the letter from you I was to meet you at Euston Station and then take you to Mrs. Martin's, in Howard-street. There you made a statement which is now in court. In this you said, "I make this statement only for the sake of the lawful husband and dear, sweet, innocent children of Mrs. M'Ivor." Yes; but they are the words which you dictated.—Mr. Corser: What has that to do with the case?—Defendant: I simply want to show the hypocrisy in the case. (To the complainant): And after tea at Mrs. Martin's it was arranged that you were to go to Farnham to act as my spy and detective? Call it what you like.—You were that?—You spied on the actions of my late wife? To my grief I did.—I corresponded with you from America, and can you produce a single letter from America in which I spoke of affection or expectation of immoral intimacy? No, not one. You said you must be cautious.—Now, Miss Pamplin, I never was intimate with you? You are a liar.—Mr. Corser: I am irritating her.—Defendant: You are a soldier, your worship, and not a lawyer. I have had experience in courts-martial, but not in police courts.—Defendant then proceeded to put in letters from complainant to himself, in which she spoke of visiting his children, of her continued love for them, of her weariness of her other situations, and a desire to be back in his house again; and after the divorce case she wrote, "Let me know how you are, as I am sure you must be upset by the case."—In reply to defendant, complainant admitted saying she would like to have some of his handwriting in regard to a prescription he offered her, so as to use it as evidence.—Defendant (to complainant): Did not you take oaths at Putney, and elsewhere that you would not swear the child to me or register it in my name? Yes.—Defendant: There, your worship, you see her oath is worthless. (To complainant): Did not you say you were going to Australia? Yes, at your instigation.—Where is your corroborative paper or otherwise? You were too artful to put anything on paper.—Now, you say I wrote telling you to take care of yourself; but was it not because I intended, when sufficiently well off, to establish a house for the protection of my children, and you were to act as nurse? Yes; to take care of myself for you; to be your wife.—Pshaw! Now can you produce a scrap of paper where I ever suggested or promised marriage to you—where I ever hinted at immorality? I challenge you or your solicitor to do this. No; you always told me not to say anything about it.—Defendant was proceeding with certain questions which the magistrate said were irrelevant, and told the complainant not to answer.—Defendant: I am very tired, your worship, not having slept for the past three nights, and am consequently in a maze.—Mr. Corser: Well, shall we adjourn now?—Defendant: Oh, no; I am just now getting into the humour of the fight. And if I was fighting in another capacity than this I might be into it quicker than you. (This remark the magistrate appeared not to notice.) Defendant said he wished to show he was not trying to deceive complainant when he said he expected to be worth £30,000 by letters he had there proving that he was engaged on the Nicaragua Canal at £2,500 a year, but the magistrate said this had nothing to do with the case.—At this point the case was again adjourned.

BRUTAL MURDER BY A SOLDIER.

A soldier named Uny has just been condemned at a court-martial held at Lyons, to "hard labour for life" for the brutal murder of one Giraud, an officer's servant, who was quartered with him in the infantry barracks at Chalon-sur-Saone. Uny, who belonged to the Reserves, had been sent to Chalon for a twenty-five days' training. He had been allowed a day's leave, which he had spent in drinking heavily, and on his return to the barracks reported that he was ill. He was examined by the regimental surgeon, who said that if he continued to indulge in intemperate habits he would become mad and eventually die. In his defence, Uny alleged that the expression of such an opinion had completely upset him, and that he had wandered about the barracks hardly knowing what he was doing. At last he determined on running away, and he sought Giraud in the hope that he would assist him. Giraud, however, begged him to leave him alone, as he was too ill, and, becoming infuriated, the prisoner grappled with the poor man, and, seizing a bayonet, stabbed him in several places. Some soldiers hearing a noise, rushed in and arrested Uny, but after a sharp struggle he broke away from them, and, running up to his victim, who had been laid on a bench, he again stabbed him with the bayonet; fractured his skull with kicks from his heavy boots; bit his face and tried to throttle him as well. The unfortunate Giraud expired during the night, and Uny was tried by court-martial at Bourges and condemned to hard labour for life; but the sentence was cancelled by the Revision Council in Paris, and the fresh trial at Lyons was the result. At this second court-martial, over which Lieutenant-colonel Marchal presided, Uny declared that he had been bewitched. He expressed no contrition for the crime, and appeared to have forgotten the details. He was found guilty by an unanimous vote, and the sentence passed on him at Bourges has thus been confirmed.

SHOCKING DISCOVERY AT CHINGFORD.

The body of a respectably-dressed man, about 23 years of age, was found lying by the roadside at Friday Hill, Chingford. In the right hand was a six-chambered revolver, one chamber being empty. The man had a bullet wound in the head. A sum of £3 4s. 7d. was found in the pockets, as also were several pawn tickets for articles pledged at Mr. J. H. Clark's, Grand Parade, Balaam, in the name of "John Austin, Coffee Tavern, Balaam." There was also an envelope addressed to "Miss Lee, 56, Denmark Villas, West Brighton," enclosing the photograph of a young lady. In one pocket there were twenty-six cartridges.

A DOCTOR'S SUICIDE.

Pathetic Letter.

Coroner Carttar has had a singular case of suicide before him at Greenwich, the victim being Mr. Henry Charles E. Cooper, aged 27, a member of the Royal College

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

Since 1815 no fewer than 13,500,000 emigrants have left England, Scotland, and Ireland.

King George of Greece, although only 44, is a grandfather.

Two tons of paper are consumed daily in the production of our morning and evening papers.

A dacoit gang recently attacked a village in Arras, but were repulsed by the villagers, and two dacoit chiefs were killed.

Another Christian has been killed by the Musulmans in the Selino district, where an encounter between soldiers and insurgents occurred.

Mr. Walter Charles Renishaw, Q.C., has been elected a bencher of Lincoln's Inn, in succession to the late Mr. Edmund Swettenham, Q.C.

Mr. Henry Tate, sugar refiner of Liverpool and London, has offered £5,000 to each city, for the promotion of home nursing of sick poor.

The non-delivery of a telegram in Glasgow caused the loss of £20; the G.P.O. offered 7d. compensation, and called it liberal.

A new burg was found for lockjaw. The patient, a girl, was left alone in a room with a mouse. She opened her mouth at once.

German subjects are vaccinated in the early months of life, again at the age of 12, and all males a third time when they enter the Army.

A highly respectable Philadelphian dog has been buried in a mahogany coffin which was lined with satin and mounted with silver ornaments.

The Victoria Cross is in all probability the rarest of modern war medals. There are only 450 of the medals in existence; one recently sold for £25.

Sarah Bernhardt and Madame Patti have a secret in common. It is the method by which they transformed their hair from a dark to a golden colour.

Mrs. Mackay, the Silver King's wife, has perhaps the finest jewels in the world. She has a sapphire worth £30,000 and a pair of solitaires valued at £80,000.

It is a mistake to suppose that a silk hat is spoiled by being ironed time and again. This is not so; the only danger is in the use of an over-hot iron, which would burn the nap.

W. G. Grace's first cricket match was at Bristol in June, 1854. A boy of 6, he was only a spectator, but he managed to evade his nurse and get in the way of the ball.

Major Clibborn, of the Salvation Army, has, at Geneva, been sentenced to eight days' imprisonment for having violated a decree of banishment.

Mr. Stanley, on Monday evening, visited the Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels, where an operatic performance had been arranged in his honour. He was heartily cheered by the crowded house.

A news agency is informed that a wedding will shortly take place between Mr. William O'Brien, M.P., and Miss Rafałowitch, daughter of the Paris financier. The lady is reported to possess a large fortune.

A large fire broke out in the town of Taungdwingyi, in Burma, on the 13th inst. Five hundred houses were burned, including the commissioners' garrison, with a large amount of stores and 25,000 rupees in coin.

It is proposed to erect a memorial of the late Dr. Farley, Bishop of Dover, in Canterbury Cathedral. A county meeting in support of the project, at which the lord-lieutenant will preside, will shortly be held.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the East London Church Fund, Earl Compton urged the clergy to take up the subject of the housing of the working classes, so as to create an influential public opinion on the subject.

Earl Cadogan, speaking at Ramsgate, said the work that the Government had done was such that no Ministry would be ashamed of. They had carried on the business of the nation in a manner which had benefited every trade and every branch of commerce.

In one of the courts of the Queen's Bench Division attention was drawn to the fact that seven gentlemen who had been summoned as special juries had for three days failed to answer to their names, and Mr. Justice Day fined each of them £10.

A pair of robins have built a nest in which there are now four eggs on a shelf in the boys' board school, Boscastle, Cornwall. The shelf is only four feet from the ground, and in full view of the scholars. One of the birds spent two hours and three-quarters in the nest one day recently during school hours.

An exciting scene was witnessed the other day in Pesth. A young woman, the wife of a labourer, and companion, was run over by a train on the electric railway and killed on the spot. The sight of the mutilated body so infuriated the crowd that the driver barely escaped a lynching and had to be arrested as the best means of saving his life.

There is, it is said, a very general impression in military circles in India that as the result of the recent sad fatalities on the polo ground, the Commander-in-Chief will shortly issue an order prohibiting tournaments in India. Sir Frederick Roberts entertains, it is rumoured, a strong dislike for the game, so that the appearance of an order on the subject would not cause much surprise.

Mr. Justice Day and a special jury tried an action for libel, brought by Mr. Morton Eden against the *Star* newspaper, for alleging that he had committed suicide. The defendants, who had published an apology, paid 40s. into court, and, at his lordship's suggestion, a verdict for the plaintiff for a further ten guineas was taken by consent.

The receipts on account of revenue from the 1st of April, 1890, when there was a balance of £5,220,000, to April 19th, 1888, were £4,07,12s., against £5,70,12s. in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which began with a balance of £6,32,000. The net expenditure was £7,300,10s., against £7,10,12s. to the same date in the previous year. The Treasury balances on April 19th, 1890, amounted to £2,500,000, and at the same date in 1888 to £6,17,30s.

Mr. W. O'Brien, M.P., was examined as a witness in the trial of an action brought in Dublin by a labourer named Nolan against District Inspector Cavanagh for having shot at and injured him at Charleville Railway Station. He said that he was fired upon by the defendant and two by his men without any provocation beyond cheering for Wales, and added that the only excuse offered by him was that the police must protect themselves.

The Central London Railway Bill, which takes power to construct an underground railway from Bayswater to the City, was the other day before a select committee of the House of Commons. Counsel for the promoters stated that the railway would pass under the roadway at a depth of about sixty feet; that it would be worked by electricity; that passengers would be brought to the surface by hydraulic lifts, and that there would be seven stations, including one at Fetter Lane Court-road, another at Finsbury Circus, and one at the Post Office.

The final arrangements have now been made in connection with the opening of the Exhibition at Edinburgh, which will take place on Thursday, the 1st of May. The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh will leave King's Cross Station at ten in the morning on the 30th inst., arriving at Edinburgh at half-past six. They will be received by the Lord Provost and magistrates, and the executive council, and conducted to the Balmoral Hotel. On Thursday morning an address will be presented to the duke by the corporation, and the exhibition will be opened at one o'clock. The executive council will entertain the royal party to luncheon after the conclusion of the ceremony. In the evening the duke will attend a dinner to

be given in his honour by the corporation, and afterwards leave for London.

Last week nine London victims of influenza succumbed.

There were 2,735 births and 1,612 deaths in London last week.

The Registrar-general declares Brighton to be the very healthiest town in England.

Since cremation was begun in France more than 12,000 unclaimed bodies have been burned.

As many as 30,000 people visit one of the large London pawnshops in the course of a year.

A Scotch sheepherder pays three guineas to scouts to give warning of the approach of the police.

The Duke of Abercorn will take the chair at the house-dinner of the National Conservative Club, to be held on May 17.

In France divorce is granted for ill-treatment. In fact, the proportion of divorces on this ground is larger than on the ground of infidelity.

John Gaffrey, a Dundee millworker, had his arm torn off at the shoulder by a jute softener in Logic Works. The poor fellow died on the spot.

Five little ones under twelve months old were suffocated—they were victims of "overlaying" in the metropolis last week.

Whilst Mr. Henry Higgins, one of the deputy lieutenants of Herefordshire, was travelling to London, he, on the train nearing Swindon, suddenly fell back dead.

During the last six years 8,621 women have sought divorce in France as compared with 6,900 men. Ten men and 163 women sought divorce while under twenty years of age.

It is a painful fact that in England and Wales criminal assaults on women have more than doubled in twenty years, the figures being 365 for 1888 and 683 for 1883.

Paris, if it has the distinction of being the heart and brain of France, enjoys a distinction of a much less enviable kind. There are ten divorces there to one in the country.

There were 65 deaths from measles in London last week, 13 from scarlet fever, 17 from diphtheria, 16 from whooping cough, & from enteric fever, and 11 from diarrhoea and dysentery.

Here are some significant figures:—The number of indictable offences reported to the police in England and Wales in 1888 was 53,441; in 1889 it had fallen to 43,336, a diminution of 25.8 per cent.

Miles Martin, a miner, was returning home to Longniddry, Old Monkland, by way of the railway near Drumcullier, when he was run down and killed by an engine.

Leicester had the satisfaction of knowing that last week it was the healthiest of our great towns. The deaths corresponded to an annual rate of 10.8 per 1,000.

Mr. Gladstone visited Lambert-road, Brixton Rise, on Tuesday afternoon, to drink a cup of tea with Mr. and Mrs. Broadhurst. Mr. Broadhurst is sadly out of health.

It is understood that the Lord Chancellor will ask a committee of judges to discuss with him the best means of securing more equality and uniformity in sentences passed upon persons convicted of crime.

While Edward M'Loughlin, a labourer, residing at Fort William, was on his way home he fell over a bridge, a height of two ty-three feet, and fractured his skull. His lifeless body was found early the next morning.

The woman who has died in Melrose Asylum was an expensive pauper. She had been chargeable to the parish of Jedburgh for thirty-seven years, and had cost the parish altogether the sum of £200.

Young Mr. Badger, a medical man, belonging to Penzance, was going through a hedge backwards at a rate of 1,200 yards a minute; with the help of a moderate wind it will attain a speed of 1,540 yards; and before a strong wind 2,000 yards.

At a recent dinner 200 different dishes were put on the table, and out of eight guests five tasted them all. The feast lasted ten hours; the after-effects still remain with the noble fire.

The Shah of Persia is greatly addicted to snuff-taking. Like Napoleon he likes his snuff strong, and like Napoleon also he has a fondness for placing it under the noses of other people.

The King of Dubrovnik was educated in France, and speaks French fluently. He became a baron because he could not marry a Parisienne with whom he fell in love.

Dog-collar eye-glass spatter dashes-wearing cigarette-c-e-swing garden-in-button-hole-wearing young man" is George Augusta Sala's description of the modern master.

Of the 3,000 postmen in London only about 1,000 have wages of 30s. weekly. The London postmen cultivate letters on the proverbial small quantity of oatmeal.

Despatches from Mexico state that observations show that the height of the active volcano of Popocatepetl has decreased by 3,000 ft. since the last measurement was taken.

According to a Hamburg journal a company has been formed there for the establishment of a German line of steamers to East Africa, with a capital of 6,000,000 marks, of which 20 per cent. has already been paid up.

The Liverpool dockers have determined to request Mr. T. P. O'Connor to resign his seat for the Scotland Division of Liverpool, because of "want of sympathy with them in the recent struggle with the shipowners."

A New York telegram states that during the progress of a bull-fight at Guadalajara, a section of the amphitheatre, in which thousands of spectators were seated, gave way. Hundreds of people were thrown to the floor.

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In this country a young Brown is born every thirty minutes, a Jones every forty minutes, and a Robinson every fiftieth minute. Other Britons come into the world at a more leisurely pace.

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JACK ALLROUND.

"If Jane C." by following my hints to other correspondents, has proved herself, as she says, "a rather dexterous cook," I do not think the lemon sponge she is anxious to make ought to be too difficult for her. "Cora" has also asked for a recipe for the same sweet dish. In one pint of water boil one ounce of glass till you reduce the bulk to half a pint. Take the whites of six eggs and whisk them till they are quite firm, and when the boiled glass is nearly cold add it gradually to the eggs, also gradually adding one pound and a half of finely powdered white sugar and the grated rind and juice of four lemons, and whisk together till you get the whole as thick as sponge.

"J. A. Mother" has a cream-coloured feather which she wants to clean. Let her prepare a basin full of lather composed of some good curd soap and some yellow soap with hot water, allow this to become nearly cold, then wash the feather with an admirable cleaning and polishing stuff combined is the following:—Linsced oil half a pint, spirits of wine an ounce, butter of antimony two ounces, mix well, and then add a quarter of a pint of spirits of turpentine and a quarter of a pint of vinegar; mix these two together and then mix with the first mixture. Apply with a wooden rag wet with the liquid, rub the wood the way of the grain, then polish with a piece of flannel, followed by a soft cotton cloth.

TURF, FIELD, AND RIVER.

By LARRY LYNX.

For the past five racing seasons the name of that staunch sportsman, the Duke of Beaufort, has been conspicuously absent from the lists of winning owners, and for that reason alone many interested in the turf gladly hailed the double event landed by his grace at Epsom by the aid of Parlington and Reye d'Or. So far as the latter game, honest mare, and one time Oaks victress, is concerned, I feel myself very much inclined to eat the leek, as while remembering her second to Philomen in the Liverpool Cup, in which race she showed traces of her old dash, I allowed her subsequent running behind Fallow Chat in the Manchester November Handicap—which nobody can say was a brilliant one—to influence me in my final estimate of her chance for the City and Suburban. Without wishing in any way to disparage Reye d'Or's very excellent performance on Wednesday last, I think she was a bit lucky to win. When the leaders entered the straight for home Royal Star led the way from Quartus, Workington, Swift, and Pioneer, Reye d'Or and Vasiatas then being prominent of the remainder. I do not wish to defend Pioneer, who is, as he showed, anything but a game colt, but he was never nicely placed and was more than once hampered for room in the run home. Royal Star and Quartus having given way, Reye d'Or came striding up on the whip hand, and went clean across the course to the rails. In so doing she certainly interfered with whatever chance Pioneer then had, and seriously hampered Workington and Vasiatas. The latter, who nearly astonished his friends to the same extent as did Goldseeker last year, fairly hunted the chestnut mare home, but he could not get up, and although the result might have been different had the race been a hundred yards further, Reye d'Or won by a neck, with the much-hampered Workington three lengths off, third. The steward after the race very properly called young Workington and Vasiatas, while Reye d'Or, who I still think would have beaten them, was to be beaten.

"A Suffering Working Man" asks how to make a rice cake, take a quarter of a pound of butter, a quarter of a pound of lard, half a pound of castor sugar, three eggs, one pound and three-quarters of flour, a quarter of a pound of ground rice, half an ounce cream of tartar, a quarter of an ounce carbonate of soda, and as much sweet milk as will mix the dough. First, in a warm bowl beat the sugar, butter, and lard together into a cream then, one by one, add the eggs, beating well between each. Much of the success of your cake will depend upon the beating up or proper creaming of these ingredients. Have the flour, rice, tartar, and soda well mixed together, and if you wish for fruit add half a pound of currant well washed and dried to the other dry materials, and work all these into the creamed ingredients, using just as much milk as will enable you to form a proper dough. The above quantity is best separated into four or five small cakes, and should be baked in square hoops nicely prepared.

"A Suffering Working Man" asks for some thing to apply to rheumatism in the legs, for which he has tried many things, but received little relief from any of them. Rheumatism is one of those troublesome complaints for which there is no specific remedy. What is good for one man may have no effect whatever on another. A Brighton correspondent has kindly sent me the recipe for a white oil embrocation which he tells me has been used with success in his family for three generations. I therefore give it to my Clapham friend in the hope it may ease the pain if he rubs it in two or three times a day. Two new laid eggs are to be whisked up for twenty minutes, and to them add four ounces best maut vinegar, four ounces opodeldoc, four ounces spirits of hartshorn, three ounces spirits of turpentine, and two ounces of laudanum. These are to be well shaken up in a bottle before use.

The desire to make almond rock at home has induced five correspondents to ask my assistance in the matter. To "Jane M.'s" request, I give the first place. She writes:—"I am about to send a hamper to some poor children, and should be much obliged if you will tell me how to make French almond rock to put in it." For this super fine rock you must use loaf sugar, three-and-a-half pounds of which must be melted in one pint of water. While that is taking place, blanch two pounds of sweet almonds, put them into a basin, and pour boiling water over them, leave them for about three minutes, then take one out and rub it between the thumb and first finger; if the skin is loose and comes off easily, blanch them all by drawing off the skin and putting the peeled almonds in a clean dish; if the skin is still fixed, pour off the first water and pour more boiling over the almonds. By the time they are all blanched the sugar will be melted. Now proceed to boil the sugar and water to crack, that is, 315deg., if you have a sugar thermometer, which is far the simplest for amateurs; if not, you must test it by dipping a stick into a basin of water, then into the boiling sugar, and at once again into the water; if the sugar on the stick will snap like glass on your touching it, it is boiled to crack, and must at once be drawn off the fire, or it may burn and destroy the whole boiling. Now take the almonds, which must be quite dry, put them into the sugar, replace the pan on the fire, and keep your wooden spoon stir the sugar gently to keep the almonds from the bottom, but be careful to stir only in one direction, as there is much danger to the point of the sugar graining, which would greatly spoil the sweetstuff. Allow the sugar and almonds to come to the boil and boil for a minute, and then pour all out, either into tin moulds or on to the slab.

To make the commoner sort use the dark raw sugar, one pint of water to three pounds and a half of sugar, and two pounds of sweet almonds, which need not be blanched unless you wish. When the sugar and water are as above boiled to crack, pour it out on your slab, throw the almonds upon it, and work them well into the sugar, and when the mass gets firm make it into a thick roll, place it on a wooden board, and cut it off in slices about half an inch thick with a large sharp knife. If the sugar is strong use a little cream of tartar, say a teaspoonful, with it.

"A Constant Reader" (Cambridge) desires a recipe for "cleaning blood and dirt off stuffed birds' feathers." Another "Constant Reader" wishes to know "the best way of cleaning the white feathers of a gull which have become soiled during the process of stuffing." If my correspondents wish to have fine specimens, they must take more trouble with the skins. The "blood and dirt" spoken of by No. 1 might have been removed before stuffing commenced with comparative ease; and no careful operator would have allowed the feathers of his gull to have become soiled during the process of stuffing," as No. 2 has done. A perfectly clean table or board and clean hands would have been sufficient. Non-attention to such simple, yet all important, details is the commonest cause of the poor work turned out by amateurs. To clean a stuffed bird is a very delicate operation, and so far as my experience goes, one rarely carried out to full satisfaction. You can but try. First wash the soiled parts carefully with a soft sponge and soap and water until you remove the stain. Have some fine white sand, which you should wash well in two or three waters and thoroughly dry and warm at the fire. When you have cleaned the feathers of the bird, dust the clean dry sand over the wet feathers, and then gently beat it out again with the hand; be careful never to stroke the feathers except in the direction of their growth, or you will run the chance of disturbing or breaking them. Use more of the dry sand, as the first becomes damp, and so proceed, and when you see the feathers getting dry, shake out all the sand, and continue the process with finely powdered starch. There are other methods, but the best successes I have known have been accomplished as above, therefore I give it.

In reply to "Winslow," an excellent salad dressing for bottling may be made as follows:—Take the yolks of two unboiled eggs and one tea-spoonful of salt, whisk them well together for some time, then add by small quantities mixing and whisking all the time, one part of the finest Florence oil. When the eggs, salt, and oil have been thoroughly whisked and mixed together, add one tablespoonful of made mustard, three tablespoonfuls of vinegar, one dessertspoonful of tarragon vinegar, one dessertspoonful of elder vinegar; mix them all thoroughly, and then add a small spoonful of fine sifted sugar, a little cayenne, and a little salt, and when these latter are well mixed in, bottle.

"Kindly furnish me with a simple recipe for cleaning and polishing furniture," writes "Subscriber." If your furniture is very dirty, I should advise that it be first well rubbed over and cleaned with vinegar and water, equal parts. But an admirable cleaning and polishing stuff combined is the following:—Linsced oil half a pint, spirits of wine an ounce, butter of antimony two ounces, mix well, and then add a quarter of a pint of spirits of turpentine and a quarter of a pint of vinegar; mix these two together and then mix with the first mixture. Apply with a wooden rag wet with the liquid, rub the wood the way of the grain, then polish with a piece of flannel, followed by a soft cotton cloth.

dearth of horses it was satisfactory to see such a resolute finish in a race of over two miles between three three-year-olds, and it is an encouraging sign of the times to find juveniles beating the older horses in a long race, for our stayers sadly require recruiting with fresh blood. Backers had a terribly bad time of it on the Metropolitan day, owing to the downfall of the favourite in every event on the card. The most tremendous face-punters received was when odds on Macunucas were floored by Tambourine, who, meeting Macunucas on 7lb. better terms than at Liverpool, avenged the Molyneux Stakes defeat, being chased home by Hear Hear.

Next week we shall see the first of the classic races disposed of at the Newmarket First Spring meeting, where the Two Thousand and One Thousand Guineas will be raced for. If the crack two-year-olds of last season have made proportionate advancement in the winter, the book would very easily tell us the winners of both events, but I fear that in the fillies' race a very poor bill of health has to be returned in the case of the beautiful Signorina, whose dental troubles have caused her trainer much anxiety. Her case is more hopeful than it was a fortnight ago, but she will scarcely see the post on Friday next, and will most likely be reserved for the Oaks.

The Two Thousand Guineas will, of course, be the chief attraction of the week, and this time honoured contest bids fair to be of the most interesting character, as many people will do the double journey to headquarters to see Surffoot and Le Nord meet, to say nothing of the other cracks. Alloway, they say, is the most improved horse at Newmarket, and his big stride will, no doubt, tell over the Rowley Mile, and it would be only a fitting tribute to his owner, Mr. Houldsworth, if his colt were to crown his accession to a Jockey Club stewardship by winning a classic race for the green and gold jacket. In the same stable, too, is Martagan, who is the property of Mr. Douglas Baird. Neither Alloway nor Martagan have won races, but Alloway ran Signorina to half a length at Kempton, was third to Hersey and Dearest at Derby, chased Riviera and Le Nord hotly home at Doncaster, but was non-placed in the Middle Park Plate to Signorina, and was, among other performances, second to Le Nord in the Dewhurst Plate. The Kingsclere stable have a couple of dangerous candidates in Blue Green and Right Away, and the betting later on will tell us which is the better of the pair. Le Nord will do battle for Hayhoe's stable, and Kirkham will probably be the trusted one of the two Australian colts. An exhaustive analysis of the race would in the present instance serve no purpose. I shall rely on form and the assumption that Surffoot has made equal improvement with Le Nord. One of the pair should win, and I shall take

SUREFOOT

for choice, Le Nord should follow him home, and Alloway may get third place.

With Signorina under a cloud and not likely to start for the One Thousand, I must look elsewhere for the winner. Fit at the post, Signorina would romp home. Riviera is not entered, and I shall expect Semolina or Dearest to win the first of the ladies' classics.

A glove fight to a finish took place at the Ormonde Club on Monday evening, in which it was refreshing to find that neither man claimed to be one of those cheap job lot champions of which so many have been swaggering and gas-blowing in the columns of sporting newspapers of late. It is true that the two men engaged—Jack Wannop, the ex-wrestler, and John Cosnett, of Birmingham—had no pretensions to champion ship form, but still that does not count in these days when champions of all sorts and sizes and avor-dupois, from catch weights to half ounces, can be turned out with promptitude and despatch by prize fight organisers at the command of a given number of nobodies possessing more money than wit. Why, even the daily paper which boasts of the largest circulation in the world—and was at one time the deadly foe of pugilism—speaks of one of the clumsy thumpers who fought for stakes, or presumed stakes, of the value that champions battled for in days gone by, as a first-class performer. Recollect, reader, that these men who fought on Monday night were heavyweights, and that neither of them had ever previously won a fight, either with or without gloves, against any pugilist of class. Therefore, when one thinks back awhile, and recalls to mind the giant Tom King, J. C. Heenan, Joe Wormald, and others of "the heavies," to say nothing of such wonders among the "middles" as gallant Tom Sayers, scientific Jen Mace, Joe Goss, and, later down to the present day, Charles Mitchell, it seems somewhat invidious to find "the largest circulation" talking of one of the clumsy thumpers who fought for stakes, or presumed stakes, of the value that champions battled for in days gone by, as a first-class performer. Recollect, reader, that these men who fought on Monday night were heavyweights, and that neither of them had ever previously won a fight, either with or without gloves, against any pugilist of class. 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THE MAJOR WHO MEANS TO MARRY. In the Westminster County Court, an application was made to Judge Bayley to commit Major Appleby to Holloway on a judgment summons. —For the plaintiff it was stated that the defendant was a retired major, with a pension of £250 a year, and was a single man. He had been ordered to pay £8 a quarter, but he wiped off the last instalment by going to prison.—Defendant, examined as to his means, said there were incomparable tax and other deductions, reducing his pension to £200. He contributed £21 a year to a military orphange. Asked why he wanted to contribute to such an institution, he being a single man, the major retorted that he did not intend to remain single all his life. (Laughter.)—Plaintiff's Solicitor: You mean to marry now?—Defendant: Yes, I do mean to marry. (Renewed laughter.) In reply to further questions, defendant said he formerly had estates in Wales, but they had been sold and the money put in Chancery.—His honour made an order for the defendant's committal, suspending the warrant for a month.—Plaintiff's Solicitor: Will you make it less than a month? The defendant does not mind going to prison a bit.—His honour declined to alter his decision.

FALL FROM A TRAIN.

In the Queen's Bench Division, Mary Letitia Dow sued the London and North-Western Railway Company to recover damages for personal injuries sustained while on her way from London to Liverpool on the 1st of November, 1888. The plaintiff alleged that the guard closed the carriage door at Rugby, but at Widnes she went to the door to pour some water out when the door, not being properly fastened, flew open, and she fell out and sustained serious injuries. She was unconscious for a month and lost her memory, so that she was unable any longer to obtain her living as a schoolmistress. She claimed £10,000 damages, and the company denied liability on the ground that negligence had not been proved.—The case was adjourned.

SHOCKING BRUTALITY IN PARIS.

La Villette seems to be determined to keep up its reputation for sheer brutality. A master butcher had put into the pens 105 splendid sheep, intending to keep them there for a few days before slaughtering them. The other morning when he entered the yard a horrible spectacle met his eye, for during the night a band of miscreants had with sticks killed all the sheep and gashed them in a brutal manner with knives. The poor animals had been so cruelly maltreated that the authorities refused to allow the carcasses to be sold as mutton. It is supposed that the culprits are some men discharged a few days ago by the owner of the sheep. They had no difficulty in obtaining an entrance, as at night only a single watchman guards the principal gate, and the sheep pens are not secured in any way.

NOTICE.

To avoid loss of time and inconvenience, all communications on business matters should be addressed to the MANAGER, and not to the EDITOR.

PERSONAL.

MISS V. N.—Will you please send your address to same address?—R.
WILL be pleased to meet A. B. at place appointed on Monday, 7 p.m.
WANTED, a GOOD WIFE, age 30 to 40; member Church of England, by widower, 45 years old.—P. CO., c/o Mrs. S. Copenhagen-street, Islington N.
MATRIMONY.—Young City Gentleman, 21 weekly, wants, M. conveniently, to meet young woman to furnish good home.—Mr. Yorkstone, City Newsroom, Farringdon-street.

MISSING.—W. W. JOHNSON, 187, Elderfield-road, Clapton, will write or call, will hear something to his advantage. Money waiting through death.

REPECTABLE WIDOW (superior) age 30, wishes to correspond with a respectable man with a view to matrimony; is never projected to.—Address, M. C., Newgate-street, Fleet-street, London.

SPECIAL PREPAID RATES.

ADVERTISEMENTS RELATING TO
Situations Wanted or Vacant,
Houses or Apartments to Let or Wanted,
Houses, &c., or Articles for Sale,
Lost or Found, &c., &c.

ARE CHARGED AT A

SPECIAL RATE OF 1s. FOR 16 WORDS

AND PER LINE, OR EIGHT WORDS, AFTER.

These rates apply only to private or individual announcements, and are not intended for advertisements of the above descriptions when sent by the advertiser in his trade or professional character.

Prepayment is indispensable.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

MAN (young) seeks situation in gentleman's garden, 7 years' character.—James, Post Office, Wallingford, Berks.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 16, good reference, 2s. weekly.—Ada, Hetherington-street, 109, Queen's-road, Peckham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 16, tall girl, 12 months' character, 1s. 6d. weekly.—Kate, Hetherington-street, 109, Queen's-road, Peckham.

A GENERAL SERVANT, age 17, 10 months' good character, 2s. wages 21s.—B. Hetherington-street, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

A GENERAL SERVANT, age 17, 6 months' character, wages 21s.—A. Hetherington-street, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

A GENERAL SERVANT, age 18, 8 months' character, wages 21s.—P. Hetherington-street, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 25 female, 10 months' good character, able to do plain cooking, 2s. weekly.—Mrs. A. Hetherington-street, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

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GENERAL SERVANT, age

ANNOYING LADY CONYERS.

Edward Bowden, aged 37, of St. Giles's, Oxford, of no occupation, was charged before Mr. Bridge, at the Bow-street Police Court, on Thursday, on a warrant for unlawfully making use of certain insulting conduct towards Mary, Lady Conyers. Mr. George Lewis prosecuted; Mr. Sims defended. —Mr. Lewis said he appeared to prosecute the prisoner, who had frequently been before the courts for a system of annoyance he had practised towards Lady Conyers and her daughter. He pointed out that the annoyance had been going on since the year 1883. During that time the prisoner had been convicted no fewer than six times. On four occasions he had undergone six months' imprisonment in default of finding sureties to be of good behaviour, and once to eighteen months for libel. On coming out of prison in January last, he recommended the same course of persecution, following the ladies about, annoying them, writing and telegraphing to them. The annoyance was so great that Lady Conyers' daughter had been obliged to go into shops, and leave by the back door to escape from him. In consequence of this he was charged. Lady Conyers deposed that in 1883 this man had followed her, and had annoyed her on several occasions. He had followed her and her daughter to private houses. He had menaced her, and made her life quite unbearable. Lady Conyers formally referred to the many times she had prosecuted the prisoner. On Monday last she saw him in the Green Park. He ran by her side, and then disappeared and reappeared. Witness took a seat. The prisoner came close up behind, and commenced muttering. She had to give him into the custody of a park-keeper.—Mr. Bridge: Are you afraid of a breach of the peace?—Witness: Yes; and I go in fear of the man. My daughter has been twice before the police courts, and it is very painful to me.—Cross-examined: He mutters in a mad sort of way and frightens me. On more than one occasion he had asked for my daughter's hand in marriage in letters. His mutterings made me alarmed.—Mr. Sims: She (your daughter) is not here to-day?—Witness: No, but she has asked me to come.—Mr. Bridge: The discretion in not bringing her was very proper.—Mr. Lewis: Perhaps the greatest misery is having to come to the public court.—Mr. Sims: I quite understand that.—Further cross-examined, Lady Conyers said that she was told at the police station that the inspector could not take the charge.—Mr. Lewis: But you were told to obtain a warrant.—Lady Conyers: Yes.—Further cross-examined, Lady Conyers said she had never spoken to the man except to tell him to go away. He had never, she said, actually struck witness or her daughter, but he had muttered in a mad sort of way and frightened them.—Inspector Conquest said he received a warrant for the arrest of the prisoner. He found he occupied a bed-room in Dean-street. On calling there witness ascertained that he had gone to Oxford, where his mother lived. He was arrested at Oxford.

Arrested at Oxford.
He said, "I suppose it is that unfortunate matter of Lady Conyers. I wish you could have waited until to-morrow, and then I should have been gone. I was going to make my home in future with my brother in Ireland."—Mr. Lewis said that was his case.—Mr. Sims, for the defence, proceeded to argue that no case had been made out.—Mr. Bridge, interrupting, said he had received letters more than once from the prisoner, when he had been in prison, promising he would never annoy these ladies again; but it was clear no reliance was to be placed on his promises.—Mr. Sims asked Lady Conyers whether the prisoner had not written last Sunday apologising for having spoken to her daughter?—Lady Conyers: Every letter contains an apology.—Mr. Bridge said the question was not as to his having been guilty of the annoyance once, but repeating it every time these ladies went out. Had any proper medical examination been made as to whether prisoner was insane or not?—Mr. Lewis: He has been examined on each occasion that he has been sent to prison, and the report has always been that he is sane.—Mr. Bridge: His conduct is that of an absolute madman. One form of insanity is an overweening, absurd, and ridiculous vanity, and it may be that that is the insanity from which the prisoner suffers.—Mr. Lewis: It is strange that you should make such an observation, sir, because in one of his letters he says he is "very fascinating"—Mr. Bridge: He looks in the glass, and straightway forgets what manner of man he is.—Mr. Sims said it was evident that the prisoner was very fond of this young lady.—Mr. Lewis could not allow such matters to be gone into, because before the prisoner ever commenced to annoy these ladies he had been guilty of similar persecution in the case of another young lady.—Mr. Bridge: The object of the persecution may be an attempt to extort money.—Mr. Sims said that could hardly be, for the prisoner must have ascertained by this time that there was no possibility of extorting money. However, all he could do was to carry out his instructions, and offer Lady Conyers and her daughter a sincere apology, and say that if the present matter was overlooked the prisoner would go away.—Mr. Bridge said it was quite certain that no promises could be relied on, and no words that he could address to the prisoner would have the smallest effect on his mind. The only thing he could do was to give what these ladies were entitled to, the protection of the law.—The prisoner was ordered to find two summates in £1,000 for twelve months, and in default to be imprisoned for six months. Addressing the defendant, Mr. Bridge said, "If you have friends here, I should advise them really to see that the state of your mind is tested by medical men of the highest position, and if they come to the conclusion that you are of unsound mind, that you will be sent to a place where you will never annoy these ladies again. You will be imprisoned for six months."

AN ALLEGED GANG OF AMERICAN THIEVES.

At the Central Criminal Court, Frank Lackrose, 22; William Smith, 42; and Charles Robinson, 43, were indicted for conspiring to steal money and a number of valuable securities, amounting to £5,000, the property of the Hon. Dudley Ryder and divers other persons. Mr. Besley, with Mr. Gill, prosecuted; Mr. Poland, Q.C., Mr. Hutton, and Mr. Geoghegan defended.—Mr. Besley, in opening the case on behalf of Messrs. Coutts' Bank, said the police had every reason to believe that the prisoners were professional thieves from America, and had come to London for the purpose of carrying on a system of robbing bank clerks by skilled and daring process. Upon the 7th ult., a clerk named Stone, from Messrs. Coutts' Bank, went into the City Bank, Threadneedle-street. At that time he was carrying a bag, which contained about £3,000 in cash and a number of bank notes. He placed the bag upon the counter, and he then noticed Lackrose standing on his right and Smith on his left hand. Mr. Stone was touched on the shoulder by Smith, who remarked, "Will you show me the way to the Bank of Westminster?" Mr. Stone turned half round, and at the same time he saw La Rose take hold of the bag, lifting it from the counter. Lackrose then said to Mr. Stone, "Pardon me; I thought it was my bag." Smith and Lackrose then joined Robinson, who was standing at the door, and all three hurried away from the bank. The police were communicated with, and on March 19th the three prisoners were observed by Detective Egerton and a constable of the City police, outside Lloyd's Bank. The officers followed the prisoners to the Birkbeck Bank, Chancery-lane, where they were arrested on a charge of felonious loitering; but subsequently the present proceedings were instituted by the bank authorities against them.—The prisoners denied the charge, and on their behalf it was contended that the case was merely one of suspicion from the evidence which had been adduced.—The jury found the prisoners guilty.—Sentence was postponed.

The new police buildings on the Thames Embankment have been built from designs by Mr. Norman Shaw. The designs were exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1887.

ALLEGED CRUEL CONSPIRACY.

At the Thames Police Court, Solomon Balbuski, 33, a hairdresser, of Fieldgate-street, Whitechapel, and Jacob Schlamowitz, also a hairdresser, of Upper North-street, Poplar, were again brought up, on remand, charged with obtaining a sum of £14 from a young Polish Jewish woman named Amelia Hyam, by means of false pretences.—The prosecutrix, who had been engaged to the prisoner Schlamowitz at Warsaw, in Poland, was induced, it is alleged, at the instance of the prisoners, to come to this country, and, owing to their conduct, to come to this country, when Balbuski persuaded her to put the money into a loan office and afterwards drew it out himself. Unusual interest is being evinced in these proceedings, owing to the belief that many young foreign Jewish women are induced to come to this country, their money being then taken from them, and they are afterwards cast adrift. Mr. Charles Mathews and Mr. R. L. Ratcliffe (of 110, Leadenhall-street) now appeared to prosecute; and Mr. George Hay Young defended.—The prosecutrix was recalled. She stated she saw Schlamowitz for the first time in England twelve days after her arrival in London, but could not state exactly the day of the week. The first question he put to her was about money. He wanted to know how much money she had brought. She replied she had brought £15. Schlamowitz wanted her to give him the draft of the money, but she would not give it to him. He then said if she would not, she would have to give it to some one else. That conversation took place at Balbuski's, who was in the other room at the time. After that conversation Balbuski came into the shop, and, after that, Schlamowitz said Balbuski was his good friend, and he would go with her to the bank. Schlamowitz afterwards took her home to her lodgings, and said she was no good friend to him, because she would not give him her money. He wanted to know why she would not give him her money, and she replied, "I know you at home. You took 126 roubles already away." He again told her somebody else would take her money. Schlamowitz described Balbuski and his wife as relatives. She next saw Schlamowitz the following Sunday evening, and accompanied him to Balbuski's. On the way he told her that Balbuski was a very good friend; that he would marry her and make her very happy in London; but that she must first give him the money. She replied that they must first get married, and then she would give him the money. After getting to Balbuski's, the two prisoners went in another room and spoke together. They were away more than an hour. After they came back they all began to speak of the marriage, and the prisoners winked at one another.

SUDDEN DEATH OF AN M.P.

Mr. Handel Cossham, M.P. for the East Division of Bristol, died on Wednesday afternoon at the National Liberal Club. Mr. Cossham went into the library of the House of Commons shortly after eleven o'clock in the morning for the purpose of writing some letters, but had not been there many minutes when he fell back in his chair in a fainting fit. Prompt assistance was rendered, and Dr. Bond, the divisional surgeon, was called in and ordered that the hon. member should be put to bed. Having recovered consciousness Mr. Cossham was taken to the National Liberal Club. He was at once taken up the lift to his bed-room. There he complained of the noise and asked for a quiet room. In this he was accommodated, and some mustard plasters having been put upon his chest, he was left in his room. Dr. Bond wrote a prescription, and a messenger was despatched for medicine. Shortly afterwards Mr. Cossham rang his bell, and a servant going up found him insensible. He died very shortly afterwards. Mr. Cossham entered Parliament at the end of 1885 as the member for East Bristol, for which constituency he was again returned at the last general election. He had previously contested Nottingham, Dewsbury, and Chippenham, but without success. Mr. Cossham, who was born in 1824, was a large colliery proprietor in Gloucestershire, and had been mayor of Bath on two occasions. Mr. Cossham leaves a widow but no family. Mr. Gourley, M.P., who dined with the deceased on Sunday at his residence, Weston Park, Bath, states that Mr. Cossham left London on the 19th inst. to pay a visit of inspection to certain of his collieries. Afterwards he proceeded to Weston Park, where he remained till Monday morning. On Sunday he delivered a lecture to a class which meets every week in a school-room specially erected for their accommodation at the bottom of his garden. His relatives were not aware that his health was in a precarious state, and the news of his death created a great sensation at the House of Commons. Mr. Storey, who breakfasted with Mr. Cossham at the National Liberal Club on Wednesday morning, states that the deceased was in an unusually cheerful mood, and the attendants in the library at Westminster give a similar account of his demeanour prior to his seizure. It appears that he walked from the library to the upper corridor without assistance, and that while on his way to the corridor he refused to take some brandy which a messenger, who had been despatched to the refreshment department by Mr. Benbow, offered to him. On Tuesday evening Mr. Cossham was one of the speakers on the Budget resolutions.

SCENE AT DEPTFORD STATION.
Alec Knott, of Idonias-street, Deptford, was summoned by the South-Eastern Railway Company, at Greenwich, for impeding an officer of the company in the execution of his duty.—Alfred Downes, porter at the Deptford Station, said that on the night of the 23rd March he was collecting tickets at the barrier from the last down train, when the defendant came from the train to the barrier with a lady, and produced two tickets for New Cross. He told him there was no time to pay upon them, but the defendant refused to pay anything, and attempted to walk down the steps. Witness got in front of him, when the defendant struck him on the forehead. He was got back to the top of the steps, when the defendant struck him again, and followed this with another blow in the eye. He was taken into the office, and on the arrival of a constable gave his name and address.—The defendant declared that the porter at Cannon-street Station told him his tickets were available to Deptford, but he was pulled about, and having had a little drink must have struck the porter.—The defendant was then fined 4s., and 2s. costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment.

THEFT FROM A MISSION SCHOOL.

On Thursday, at the London County Sessions, Thomas Parish, 68, harness maker, and John Roberts, 61, labourer, were indicted for stealing a bass viol, value £5, the goods of Frederick Elmes and others.—The prosecutor is vice-president of the Great Queen-street Mission Band, and a Wesleyan lay missionary. On the 21st of March he was informed that the viol in question had been stolen from the school-room of Great Queen-street Chapel. It was first missed by the caretaker on the 20th of March, when he noticed that another viol had been removed and placed on the other side of the room. There were no marks of the school-room having been broken open. On the 25th of March Detective-sergeant Durrant and Detective Kydd saw both prisoners in the Farringdon-road, and noticed that Roberts was carrying a bass viol, which he put against a wall in Baker's-row. Parish spoke to Roberts and then went into a public-house. In answer to the police, Roberts said he was a musician, and the viol belonged to a young man he was carrying it for. Parish said he knew nothing of the man, whom he stated he met in the Cattle Market. They were both arrested, and on the way to the police station Parish put his hand in his pocket, in which were eighteen ordinary keys, one of which would open two doors inside the school and the room where the musical instruments were kept, but neither of them would open the front door.—The jury acquitted Parish and found Roberts guilty.—Warder Turrell proved previous convictions, and Mr. Warry said he would postpone sentence.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT BLACK-FRIARS.

Two Firemen Injured.

The oil refinery of Sir W. A. Rose and Co., Rose's Hatch, Bankside, was totally destroyed by fire on Thursday. The business was carried on by a merchant, was charged on remand, before Mr. Alderman Renaldi, with conspiring with Justo Martos and others in forging and uttering a large quantity of forged Spanish bonds, with intent to defraud. Carlo Neri, aged 43, and Antonio Bigatti, aged 48, both Italian, described as mining agents, were charged with being concerned with Varrone and others in forging and uttering the bonds. Mr. Horace Avery was counsel for the prosecution; Mr. Goldberg, solicitor, appeared for Varrone.—Mr. Avery, addressing the court, said the two prisoners, Neri and Bigatti, who were now in the dock, were arrested last week, and the information in the possession of the police went to show that they were some of the chief actors in the plot to pass off these forged bonds. Whether Varrone was a principal or merely a subsidiary agent in the matter remained to be seen; but it was due to him to say that he made a statement, which was supplied to the police, in consequence of which the police were put in motion and were enabled to trace the prisoners. The landlord of a house in which they had resided seemed simultaneously to have seen reports of the case in the newspapers, and also to have furnished information to the prosecution. They had been able to trace the movements of the two prisoners, Neri and Bigatti, and to see how they tried to escape from justice on the discovery of the plot. They lodged from the 10th of October to the 12th of March at 45, Lansdowne Gardens, South Lambeth, where they were introduced by the prisoner Varrone. At that house they were visited by Varrone, and by a man who was probably Martos. On the 12th of March, after Martos absconded, they left suddenly, stating that they were going to Marseilles, and directing that all letters should be forwarded to them at the Poste Restante there. Letters were sent there, and their servant received a letter from Marseilles giving certain instructions, but this was evidently a skilful ruse to divert attention in the event of the police making inquiries, for, so far from going to Marseilles, the prisoners never left London, but betook themselves to lodgings at 15, Bolton Gardens, South Kensington, where they resided in the name of Stanzani. There they remained till the 2nd of April, when they left suddenly, in consequence, no doubt, of information reaching them that they were being inquired for. After they left an Italian letter was received at their lodgings, in which it was stated, "Vorsari and another arrested at Marseilles; Baldini arrested and sundered himself; Bologna. Save yourselves. Write no more letters; decamp at once." The prisoners removed to 31, Seagrave-road, West Brompton, where they were arrested. On Bigatti £1,300 in bank notes was found, including a bank note for £1,000, which had been traced to Martos in part payment of the sale of some of the forged bonds. Other of the notes were traced to Varrone. The prisoner Neri had kept an account at the London and County Bank (Brixton branch) and evidence would be given tracing the payment into it of sums which had resulted from the forgeries.—Evidence in support of Mr. Avery's statement having been given, the prisoners were again remanded.

MR. SPURGEON AS A PROPHET.

Mr. Spurgeon has delivered an amusing address to 600 ministers educated in the Pastors' College. He cautioned his hearers against looking down on the people, on the pretence of magnifying their offence. He wondered which was the worse—the man who could preach and would not, or the man who could not preach but would. Let them do their duty straight, though the heavens fall. They were exhorted to love sinners for Christ's sake; it was about the only reason for loving some sinners. Some ministers did not believe the Lord was with their gospel, and they had to catch men by such pretences as could be devised, like the servant who caught and killed flies on purpose to stick them on to the fly-paper. But such fly-papers were dead failures. If their gospel had not power enough in itself to arrest, and ministers had to work up some backyard substitute, they were a disgrace to the truth they professed to honour. He believed the second coming of Christ would be soon, judging by signs. The devil was very busy, and when they saw a farmer burning his gates and destroying his barns they might be sure his lease was up. He did not feel depressed at the general outlook.

ALLEGED FINANCIAL LIBEL.

At the Central Criminal Court, Mr. Charles William Perryman, the proprietor of the *Financial Observer* and *Mining Herald*, surrendered to take his trial for publishing a false, scandalous, and defamatory libel concerning Mr. Dunning, formerly a member of the London Stock Exchange. Mr. Murphy, Q.C., and Mr. Grain prosecuted; Mr. Cock, Q.C., and Mr. Muir were counsel for the defendant.—The libel in question was published two years ago, but no proceedings were taken with regard to it until February of the present year. The alleged libel was contained in a pamphlet, the object of which appeared to be to caution the public against the promoters of bogus gold mine companies; but the specific charges against the prosecutor were that he had been connected with parties who had swindled the public and induced them to take shares in worthless undertakings, by which they had lost the whole of the money they had invested in the purchase of shares. He was also charged with having "lentanted," with being concerned in several shady bill transactions, and with being "wanted" for other little acts of impropriety. The greater portion of the pamphlet, however, related to the proceedings of other parties, one of whom was stated to be a solicitor, and their connection with several bubble companies in which the public had been induced to take shares and had lost the whole of their money.—The prosecutor was subjected to very severe cross-examination, and it appeared that he had previously been a member of the Stock Exchange, but failed four years ago, and since then he had acted as an outside broker. He admitted that he was acquainted with the parties who were represented to have taken the most active share in promoting several bubble companies, and that the deputation was that twenty years' limit should be struck out of the bill. Objection was also taken to the mode in which the landlords are proposed to be dealt with pending the proof of title. It was pointed out that under the provisions of the measure as it now stood the land would be transferred to the tenant as soon as the vesting order, following on the sale of the estate, came into operation, but pending proof of title, which might take years, the capital sum was unbound by the Land Department and interest paid on it to the landlord at the rate of 2 per cent., whilst all the while the landlord might be compelled to pay 5 or 6 per cent. to the incumbrancers. What the deputation desired was, that the bill should be so altered that the incumbrancer should, during this time, receive the same interest as the Government paid to the landlord. Several other features of the bill that the deputation took exception to were explained, and the latter part of the interview took place largely of a conversational character, Lord Hartington and Sir George D'Eath, 100, 2

THE GREAT FORGERY OF SPANISH BONDS.

Further Discoveries.

At the Mansion House Police Court on Thursday, Edward Varrone, an Austrian, described as a merchant, was charged on remand, before Mr. Alderman Renaldi, with conspiring with Justo Martos and others in forging and uttering a large quantity of forged Spanish bonds, with intent to defraud. Carlo Neri, aged 43, and Antonio Bigatti, aged 48, both Italian, described as mining agents, were charged with being concerned with Varrone and others in forging and uttering the bonds. Mr. Horace Avery was counsel for the prosecution; Mr. Goldberg, solicitor, appeared for Varrone.—Mr. Avery, addressing the court, said the two prisoners, Neri and Bigatti, who were now in the dock, were arrested last week, and the information in the possession of the police went to show that they were some of the chief actors in the plot to pass off these forged bonds. Whether Varrone was a principal or merely a subsidiary agent in the matter remained to be seen; but it was due to him to say that he made a statement, which was supplied to the police, in consequence of which the police were put in motion and were enabled to trace the prisoners. The landlord of a house in which they had resided seemed simultaneously to have seen reports of the case in the newspapers, and also to have furnished information to the prosecution. They had been able to trace the movements of the two prisoners, Neri and Bigatti, and to see how they tried to escape from justice on the discovery of the plot. They lodged from the 10th of October to the 12th of March at 45, Lansdowne Gardens, South Lambeth, where they were introduced by the prisoner Varrone. At that house they were visited by Varrone, and by a man who was probably Martos. On the 12th of March, after Martos absconded, they left suddenly, stating that they were going to Marseilles, and directing that all letters should be forwarded to them at the Poste Restante there. Letters were sent there, and their servant received a letter from Marseilles giving certain instructions, but this was evidently a skilful ruse to divert attention in the event of the police making inquiries, for, so far from going to Marseilles, the prisoners never left London, but betook themselves to lodgings at 15, Bolton Gardens, South Kensington, where they resided in the name of Stanzani. There they remained till the 2nd of April, when they left suddenly, in consequence, no doubt, of information reaching them that they were being inquired for. After they left an Italian letter was received at their lodgings, in which it was stated, "Vorsari and another arrested at Marseilles; Baldini arrested and sundered himself; Bologna. Save yourselves. Write no more letters; decamp at once." The prisoners removed to 31, Seagrave-road, West Brompton, where they were arrested. On Bigatti £1,300 in bank notes was found, including a bank note for £1,000, which had been traced to Martos in part payment of the sale of some of the forged bonds. Other of the notes were traced to Varrone. The prisoner Neri had kept an account at the London and County Bank (Brixton branch) and evidence would be given tracing the payment into it of sums which had resulted from the forgeries.—Evidence in support of Mr. Avery's statement having been given, the prisoners were again remanded.

SOUTH LONDON POLYTECHNIC.

The bill promoted by the South London Polytechnic Institute Committee, which has already received the sanction of the House of Lords, came on Wednesday, as an unopposed bill, before the committee presided over by Mr. Courtney. Under this bill the Polytechnic Committee are authorised to acquire from the Corporation of London for a polytechnic for Southwark the freehold of a site on the south side of the Borough-road, now in the possession of the British and Foreign School Society. Under an agreement, which is confirmed by the bill, the School Society transfer their interest in the site, with all buildings, together with the unexpired lease of eleven years, for the sum of £20,000. The preamble having been formally approved, the bill was passed, and ordered to be reported. This bill has now been sanctioned by both Houses.

SUPPOSED MURDER BY A BURGLAR.

An Alresford correspondent states that Mrs. Sampson, a widow, aged 63, was found on Tuesday in her house with her face covered with blood and discolourations upon her throat. She was put to bed, and received medical attendance, after which she became sufficiently conscious to relate what had happened. During the previous night she heard noises in the lower part of the house, and went downstairs to discover the cause. There she was confronted by a strange man, who knocked her down, seriously injuring her, and threatened to murder her. Beyond this little or nothing is known. The unfortunate woman died on Wednesday from her injuries. On searching the premises it was discovered that a hole, large enough to admit a man, was made in a narrow window at the back of the house. A cap, too, was found in the room, the window of which was broken. It has been identified as one that was worn on Monday by a young man, who is now in custody.

LORD HARTINGTON AND THE IRISH LANDLORDS.

The Liberal Unionist members of the deputation appointed at the recent convention of Irish landlords to confer with Mr. Balfour and other prominent Unionists in reference to the Land Purchase Bill, waited on Lord Hartington at Devonshire House on Thursday. The interview, which lasted about an hour and a half, was a private one, but the Press Association gives the following outlines of the proceedings. Viscount Lytton, M.P., introduced the deputation, which consisted of Lord Castletown, Lord de Vesci, The O'Connor Don, Mr. Hugh Montgomery, Mr. Jas. Wilson, Mr. H. Bagnell. The point most strongly urged by the deputation was that twenty years' limit should be struck out of the bill. Objection was also taken to the mode in which the landlords are proposed to be dealt with pending the proof of title. It was pointed out that under the provisions of the measure as it now stood the land would be transferred to the tenant as soon as the vesting order, following on the sale of the estate,